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Inter-Arab Affairs

Efforts Reportedly Underway To Hold Mini Summit

JN1008115289 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 10 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] According to Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo, consultations among several Arab capitals are currently underway to hold a mini Arab summit in Cairo, Damascus, or Baghdad to adopt a unified strategy on the developments of war and peace in the Middle East. The strategy will be presented to the forthcoming Arab summit for approval.

According to these circles, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is trying to convince Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad to attend this mini summit, which will be devoted to reaching a unified Arab position on the Middle East conflict and the Palestine question.

The summit, which will be attended by His Majesty King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad, President Saddam Husayn, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Yasir 'Arafat, and the sultan of Oman, will thoroughly and comprehensively discuss the positions of all nations of the world, especially those of the superpowers, on the Middle East peace process and formulate the appropriate Arab response to these stands, whether they be positive or negative.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah 5th General Congress Ends in Tunis 10 Aug

LD1008195189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1643 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug 10 (KUNA)—Fatah, the main group in the PLO, concluded on Thursday its fifth general congress here with electing members of the movement's Revolutionary Council after a lengthy session.

The 1200 conferees earlier elected members of Fatah's Central Committee and endorsed a political declaration which gave President Yasir 'Arafat a mandate to go ahead with PLO's peace endeavors based on the (?establishment) of an independent Palestinian state.

They also voted for structural changes in Fatah's inner councils recommended by President 'Arafat who himself has been chosen by the congress as chairman of the movement.

The gathering which initially scheduled to last for five days, went into sessions here last Thursday [3 August], and in view of busy schedule it extended deliberations by three days.

In the closing session that began last night and ended this morning, the congress elected 50 of the 111-member Revolutionary Council. Among those elected was Brigadier Abu-al-Hakam al-Rawsan who is in charge of Fatah's [words indistinct] known as the revolutionary (?justice) [words indistinct] informed Palestinian source told KUNA.

The remaining 61 members of the council who automatically retain the council's membership are the officials of the Central Committee, the Military Council, and 15 other cadres to be named by Fatah leadership.

The source said that the congress also decided to appoint representatives of the occupied territories as members in the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council, but their names would not be revealed due to security reasons.

[Words indistinct] him its political declaration last Tuesday, the congress vowed to advocate escalation of armed action and all forms of struggle in the occupied lands.

It also strongly advocated the intensification of the Palestinian uprising till the complete liberation of the Palestinian territories and reiterated its absolute rejection of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election plan in the occupied lands.

In this connection, the congress restated conditions demanded by the PLO in the past which stipulated an Israeli withdrawal prior to holding any elections and a United Nation's supervision of such a move and an overall settlement leading to independence.

Fatah fifth congress was its first for nine years. The movement's last general conference was held in Damascus in 1980.

Revolutionary Council Formed

LD1008132189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Fatah Movement, the main faction of the PLO, formed its Revolutionary Council before the end of the proceedings of its fifth congress in Tunis at noon today. The Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement was expanded to 111 members.

A well informed Palestinian source told TAP that the 1,200 participants elected on the 2d day of the congress 50 members of the Revolutionary Council, including Brigadier General Abu-al-Hakam al-Rawsan, official in charge of revolutionary justice, whose election was greeted by applause. As for the remaining 61 members, they are automatically members of the Revolutionary Council, an intermediary body between the Central Committee and the congress: They are the 21 members

of the Central Committee, the 25 members of the Military Council whose composition has not yet been announced, and 15 cadres to be appointed by the Fatah leadership. [passage omitted]

A congress resolution stipulates that Yasir 'Arafat will later set up a Political Bureau of 11 members, a new body within the movement.

In addition, the congress decided to appoint representatives of the occupied territories within the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council. The names of these representatives were not announced for security reasons. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Congress

LD1008215189 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers: At the fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement, 90 percent voted in favor of continuing the diplomatic moves by brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to find a balanced political equation that guarantees the launching of a peace process in the region and the realization of the legitimate rights of our Palestinian people. This vote is considered a victory for the political strategy adopted by the Palestine National Council at its recent session held last November in Algiers.

Stressing that Palestinian diplomacy is not just a maneuver or a tactic but an integrated strategy to achieve peace in the region, it must be said that the strategy of Palestinian political action—and with this very great number of votes—is frank and sincere support for bringing about peace in the region in accordance with the dictates of the principles of international legitimacy. This fact affirms that there is a unique historic opportunity for peace in the region. This opportunity must be taken by all the parties involved in the conflict and must not be lost.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian leadership has for a long time realized that establishing peace will mean relying on balance, wisdom, and realism, and not on what is wanted by a party without even examining the point of view, aspirations, and rights of other parties. From this point of view, Palestinian diplomacy has found great international support: There is the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the Palestinian dialogue with the Western states in general; for the first time, West Europe united over support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the PLO's participation in the peace process was mentioned in the communique issued at the EEC summit in Madrid last month. [passage omitted]

The whole world has realized that supporting the Palestinian strategy is in itself support for peace and that the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government must act in accordance with the realities and not on what—according to them—should happen. As we have said, there is a historic opportunity for peace and it must be taken in order to entrench the pillars of a comprehensive and lasting and balanced peace in our region, a region that continues to live with the horrors and complications of war.

Foreign Protection for Fatah Congress Denied

PM0808151489 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: Guarantee Allegations Untrue"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-MADINAH Bureau—A high-ranking Tunisian source has denied to AL-MADINAH the rumors circulated recently by foreign media organs of the existence of U.S., French, and Italian guarantees and safeguards to protect Palestinians attending the fifth Fatah congress, which commenced its proceedings in Tunis Thursday [3 August]. The source confirmed that the security provisions are exclusively Tunisian and said that the aim of these rumors is to cast doubt on the Tunisian security's capabilities, efficiency, and worth.

In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH, [Fatah Central Committee member] Salah Khalaf, "Abu-Iyad," emphasized that recent reports of the existence of U.S., French, and Italian guarantees that Israel would not attack the conference center are without foundation. Abu-Iyad praised Tunisian security's success in protecting the Fatah congress. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, official in charge of unified Palestinian information and nominated to the Central Committee, said all reports of the existence of non-Tunisian gurantees and safeguards are "lies and disparagements."

Lyon Library Attack Blamed on 'Zionist' Groups

NC1008165689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, 10 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, media adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has accused extremist Zionist organizations working under the supervision of Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli intelligence, Mosad, of engineering and carrying out the attack on the Jewish library in Lyon, France last night.

This came in an exclusive statement given by Abu-Sharif to a MENA correspondent in Tunis.

In his statement, Abu-Sharif said the goal of this attack was to distract attention from Israel's crimes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian official described the operation as a "failing attempt" to portray the Israelis as victims, when each day scores of Palestinians are falling victim to organized Israeli terrorism in the occupied territories.

[At 1315 GMT on 10 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic carried a Lyon-datelined item which explained the incident as follows: "A police source in Lyon said this morning that one or more unidentified people broke open the door of the Levy Yitzhaq Library in central Lyon, threw a Molotov cocktail inside it at 0130 today, and then fled. The explosion caused a fire which was quickly put out, and neither the books nor the shop caught fire. No organization has claimed responsibility for the incident and investigations have started."]

PNC Official Calls For Clear Israeli Position

NC0608123889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that the PLO will only accept an official, unambiguous, integrated, and clear position on the proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for elections in the occupied West Bank so that these elections finally lead to the establishment of the independent state of Palestine within the framework of a confederation with Jordan.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said that the PLO is demanding international guarantees for all parties to the conflict in the region through an international peace conference, which world public opinion believes should be held to resolve the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Italian Official Meets 'Arafat in Tunis 8 Aug

AU0808105089 Rome ANSA in English 0825 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] (ANSA) Tunis—The situation in Lebanon and the hostage crisis there were the focus of talks here Sunday evening between Italian Deputy Premier Claudio Martelli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat, official sources said Monday.

Also present for the talks at Tunis' conference centre, where the PLO mainstream faction Fatah has been holding a congress, were Italy's ambassador to Tunis, Claudio Moreno; 'Arafat's cabinet chief, Sami Mussalim; and the PLO representatives in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi and Rome, Nimr Haddad.

In their long and detailed talks, Martelli and 'Arafat concentrated on dialogue between the PLO and the United States, contacts outside Israel between the PLO and representatives of Israeli political parties, and the problem of securing the release of Western hostages in the hands of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizballah movement.

PNSF Criticizes PLO, Political Moves

JN0908114089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued a press statement on the 21st month of the intifadah [uprising]. The press statement reads: On this day, our people's intifadah enters its 21st month with added vigor and decisiveness. Our masses daily record epics of heroism and sacrifice, foiling, with their inflexible determination, all the attempts by the occupiers and invaders to crush their revolution, as a first step to the liquidation of their national cause.

With their deep political maturity and militant capabilities our masses have reaffirmed over the past months that they are capable of foiling all conspiracies and maneuvers to terminate their intifadah, and to peddle solution schemes against their national cause. However, the continued political onslaught against the intifadah at this stage and the ever-increasing perils it poses to it dictate on all the Palestinian national factions and forces to spare no effort to expose and foil the conspiracy which is currently being concocted. This conspiracy is represented in Shamir's election plan whose primary objective is to terminate the intifadah.

What makes the political onslaught against our masses' intifadah more dangerous is that the PLO's right-wing command competing with this onslaught, is holding meetings with Likud circles to reach an understanding on the ill-omened plan, and is encouraging its henchmen in Palestine to hold a dialogue with Shamir and with John Kelly, the envoy of U.S. imperialism, to discuss the implementation of Shamir's plan in accordance with conditions which do not alter the essence of this plan. All this helps in the implementation of the conspiracy. This onslaught becomes more perilous because it coincides with the fierce onslaught in the Lebanese arena against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. It also coincides with the Arab tripartite committee's decision suspending its initiative to bring more pressure to bear and to embarrass Syria and prevent it from playing its role in confronting the conspiracy to terminate the intifadah, liquidate the Palestinian cause, and fulfill the Zionist role in Lebanon.

The PNSF press statement issued on the 21st month of the intifadah goes on to say: While we in the PNSF greet the heroism of our people in Palestine, declare our deep appreciation for their huge sacrifices, we also warn against the conspiratorial meetings and moves which are under way to peddle Shamir's plan. On the 21st month of the intifadah, we call on our Palestinian masses and their revolutionary forces to close their ranks and block the road to this conspiracy which is being concocted by the Zionist occupiers, U.S.imperialism, and the deviationist PLO rightwing command, and all those who back them. We also call on our Arab masses and the nationalist Arab countries and forces to firmly support our people's

intifadah to enable it to continue until the occupation is expelled and our people's objectives of liberation, repatriation, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state are attained.

[Signed] The Palestine National Salvation Front

National Fund Chief: Amman Office To Reopen

PM0908081289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Juwayd al-Ghusayn Confirms to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: King Husayn Agrees to Reopening of Palestinian National Fund Center"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Juwayd al-Ghusayn, Palestinian National Fund chairman and PLO Executive Committee member, yesterday confirmed that King Husayn of Jordan has given his approval for the reopening of the Fund's center in Amman this week.

The chairman of the Palestinian National Fund, who is assuming Finance Ministry tasks vis-a-vis the PLO's financial obligations, said that "the royal approval for the reopening of the Fund's center was issued after a meeting with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir in Amman last week."

Juwayd al-Ghusayn praised the Jordanian decision to reopen the fund's center in Amman, and said in that regard that "this step reflects the strength of fraternal relations between Jordan and the PLO." He also cited the importance of the presence of the fund's headquarters in Amman," where we can be close to our kinfolk in the occupied territory and thus be able better to perform our duty toward them."

Al-Ghusayn Thanks Jordan

JN1008163489 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received a cable from the president of the Palestine National Fund [PNF], Jawid al-Ghusayn, expressing thanks to his majesty the king for the government's decision to allow the PNF headquarters to open in Amman.

The PNF chief said in a press conference in Abu Dhabi 2 days ago the opening of the PNF headquarters in Amman will reflect positively on the residents of the occupied territories and counter Israel's plan to quell their uprising.

Cairo To Host Israeli-Palestinian Talks

PM1008083689 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Aug 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo will shortly host a dialogue between Palestinian leaders and prominent Israeli figures. A number of Palestinian figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and prominent Israeli figures from the "Peace Movement" in Israel are due to arrive in Cairo shortly. They have agreed to go to Cairo to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on ways of achieving peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian figures and leaders include Shahir Sa'd, trade union leader; Sa'id Kan'an, head of the Friends of Success Society; Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem; Jamil Tarif from Ramallah; Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, lawyers' leader in Gaza; and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah.

The Israeli figures include Latif Dori, member of the United Workers' Party (Mapam) Central Committee; Yosi Sarid, head of the "Citizens' Rights Movement"; and Moshe 'Umayraf [name as published], Knesset member. Cairo is seeking to raise the level of the dialogue by inviting PLO Executive Committee member Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who has agreed to attend, and Israeli Minister 'Ezer Weizman, with whom diplomatic efforts are being made to persuade him to take part.

PLO's Sha'th Interviewed on Palestinian Issues

JN0908074489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Aug 89 p 5

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by Husayn Kurum; date, place not given]

[Text] [Kurum] What are the real facts about the contacts which took place between elements belonging to the PLO and Shamir's representatives?

[Sha'th] The truth is that Shamir knows very well that it is no longer possible to ignore the fact that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the political framework. Without negotiating with the PLO no solution can be reached. This means recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Shamir is trying hard to conceal the truth of his decision to meet with PLO representatives because he knows the grave consequences to all developments in the stand as far as he is concerned. He is now meeting with PLO representatives on the inside. He claims that he does not know they represent the PLO. However, before meeting with him, they asked the PLO and got its permission to meet with Shamir. After they met with him, they informed the PLO immediately of the results of the contacts.

Therefore, all those met by Shamir in the occupied territories are representatives of the PLO. They discuss things within the framework set for them by the PLO.

The most important meeting which took place was with brother Jamil al-Tarifi in the West Bank. Shamir still talks of semi-independence, incomplete independence, and elections. We talk to him from the PLO point of view, which is to establish an independent state and go to the international conference to reach any resolutions on the future.

There are contacts with Shamir also through the United States, with which we are in almost daily contact. The United States is in constant contact with Shamir, relaying messages back and forth.

Contacts took place through the Soviet Union when Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and Moshe Arens were in Cairo.

Contacts are still continuing. A meeting has taken place in Vienna between PLO and Israeli Likud representatives. In Strasbourg, during the conference held by the European Parliament organization attended by representatives from Shamir's party and the Labor Party, meetings were also held. All these are in addition to the meetings that took place with the Labor Party.

During all these meetings, the PLO has presented its views on the solution based on the Palestine National Council's [PNC] resolutions issued on 15 November of last year in Algiers. Shamir's ideas still revolve around the subject of elections as a basic starting point. His major statements still effectively contradict any real attempt to move the action toward a successful solution.

[Kurum] Do you hope that these contacts with Shamir will finally lead to effecting a change in the Likud's stand?

[Sha'th] The Likud's position is fanatic, rightist, and fascist to a great extent. However, it is nevertheless controlled by objective circumstances, not just Shamir's or the Likud members' personal views. Seen objectively, there is a continuing intifadah [uprising] which makes it review its position on the future and on a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is a change in the U.S. position. The continuing U.S.-Palestinian dialogue hit Israel hard, which for years acted as though it had a monopoly on the United States and we were incapable of opening a gap in this colossus. Now, there is an open gap. There is a change in the Soviet-U.S position toward solving regional problems, such as the Namibia problem, Afghanistan, and the Gulf war.

Therefore, there is pressure on all powers in Israel, including the Likud, to change their positions. As for when this stand will change, and to what extent, will be revealed within the next few days.

[Kurum] Some people say that the PLO should have demonstrated this political flexibility when the Labor Party was in office in Israel before the Likud came to power in 1977. This is because it is easier to reach an understanding with the Labor Party. But now, are you showing flexibility with the most rigid elements?

[Sha'th] We do not perceive a major difference between the Labor and the Likud except in the mode of expression. All crimes—beginning with the occupation of Palestine in 1948, the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, and ending with the 1967 and 1973 wars—were carried out by the Labor Party, not the Likud Party.

Therefore, we cannot say that the Labor Party was flexible before 1977; it is the party that established settlements, occupied Sinai, and attacked the Bahr al-Baqar school in Egypt; and it is the party that perpetrated the massacres of Dayr Yasin. There is no big difference between Labor and Likud.

And even Egypt did not reach any settlement except with the Likud and its leader Begin in the Camp David accords. This was not possible under the Labor Party.

[Kurum] Will the mediation begun by the Soviets between you and Shamir make the Soviets relinquish their support for you to adopt the unbiased stand that must be adopted by a mediator?

[Sha'th] The Americans, who play the role of a mediator, are not neutral. And the Soviets will not be unbiased if they play this role. These are superpowers, not small powers that play the role of a mediator. They play this role in light of their own views. They must have relations with both sides so that their role can be accepted. Therefore, the United States was compelled to have relations with the PLO in order to be a mediator, and the Soviets were also obliged to have relations with Israel to become mediators. Outside this framework, the United States is not required to be neutral between us and Israel, which is the United States' main ally and protege. We also have the same strong relations with the Soviets. Moreover, our relations with the Soviets are much stronger than Israel's relations with them even when they play the role of a mediator.

[Kurum] How far will the PLO go in its political flexibility with the United States and Israel?

[Sha'th] Flexibility is related to the type of action and to tactics, not with the strategic principles and vision. Principles are clear and the strategic vision is also clear. They were clarified by the PNC's resolutions. But flexibility as a method of action will continue, because it is the best way to reach sound resolutions on difficult issues over which conflict has continued for years. However, this flexibility does not mean any abandonment of principles or struggle, which is best represented by the intifadah.

[Kurum] Some people cast doubts about the current shift in the Palestinian struggle represented best the intifadah and the political flexibility. They say there is no alternative to the armed struggle?

[Sha'th] Nobody in the Palestinian arena has announced that the armed struggle has ended. The use of the armed struggle against civilians has stopped. Nobody has halted the military operations against the Israeli military forces, and nobody has halted the struggle in the intifadah against civilians and Israeli military forces. While some people do not consider the Molotov cocktails and the children's stones weapons, the enemy considers them weapons and views the intifadah as an armed struggle against it. Israel has every hope that we fight it with the weapons in which it excels. But we have the right to choose the appropriate weapon for the time and place in order to achieve superiority for our forces against the enemy. The intifadah is an armed struggle, and the flexible political action is a difficult struggle. It is also a form of struggle against Israel's settlement policy and hostility.

[Kurum] What are the latest reports on Arab efforts to achieve a reconciliation between the PLO and Syria?

[Sha'th] We have reached a no-dispute stage with Syria, but I cannot say there is quick progress in the efforts to normalize relations to the level required by two Arab countries facing an enemy like Israel. We in the PLO want normal relations with Syria and a real alliance in the struggle to achieve peace and confront Israel. However, relations are now better than there were a few months ago. However, I would like to clarify that we will not relinquish our independent decisionmaking. We urge Syria to release the thousands of our strugglers who are still suffering in its prisons.

[Kurum] We hear and read conflicting reports on the Arab countries' financial commitments to the Palestinian intifadah worked out by the Arab summit conference in Algiers last June. We would like to hear something specific and clear about this?

[Sha'th] It is regrettable to say that the Arab commitments to the intifadah and the Palestinian struggle are insufficient. This is because the Palestine question does not constitute a priority to the Arab countries and as a result, the Palestinians do not get the required support to achieve the minimum legitimate rights.

Regarding financial support, last year's summit conference in Algiers decided such support, but only Saudi Arabia has met its commitments. When the Casablanca summit was convened several months ago, some Arab countries like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates met parts of their commitments. Iraq and Libya are also meeting some of their commitments worked out in previous agreements. But they have not yet abided by the summit resolutions.

We can say that all the Arab countries, except Saudi Arabia, do not meet their financial commitments to the intifadah. Regarding the military factor, there is no military support. On the political level, President Mubarak is making moves, and there is a very limited move by some Arab countries—a move which cannot reach the required level to give a real negotiating card to the Palestinian struggler.

[Kurum] I have an embarrassing question to ask you. Reports say that you do not need aid because you are richer than the Arab countries. What do you say?

[Sha'th] This is used by some people as an excuse to avert their responsibilities. They level accusations against the PLO to avoid meeting their commitments, particularly their financial commitments. All the PLO sources of income are well known and its income can be calculated accurately because every Arab country that extends aid to the PLO announces it and boasts of it through its mass media. Therefore, we can say there is no hidden source. But what the world does not know is the PLO's financial reponsibilities toward the intifadah, the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, the sons of the martyrs and the wounded who have fallen throughout the past 15 years, as well as the armed struggle over the past 24 years.

Egypt

MENA on Outcome of Abu-Talib Washington Visit

NC1008114389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, 9 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that the current visit to Washington by Egyptian Defense Minister Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib and his talks with senior U.S officials have produced very important results, which will become apparent in the next few months.

A MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that these results will have a bearing on Egyptian-U.S military cooperation in the fields of arming and updating the defensive capacity of the Egyptian Armed Forces, training, and joint war production.

It is worth noting that during his meeting with the Egyptian defense minister yesterday, U.S. President George Bush reiterated the U.S intention to provide Egypt with the necessary means to strengthen its defense capabilities in particular. The same assertion was made by U.S Defense Secretary Richard Cheney during his talks with General Abu-Talib at the Pentagon on Monday.

Our correspondent has also learned that the preliminary agreements which were reached during the defense minister's visit to the U.S. capital will be discussed in detail within the next few months. The continuous contacts which will be maintained during the coming months are expected to stress specific points, to be discussed by the Egyptian and U.S. defense ministers at their next meeting.

It is worth noting that U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney will visit Egypt early next year at the invitation of Gen Abu-Talib.

Abu-Talib on Talks With Cheney

NC1008124389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Washington, 7 Aug (MENA)—An official session of talks was held at the U.S. Defense Department between Egyptian Defense Minister General Yusuf Abu-Talib and his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney. The important talks between the two sides dealt with a number of issues, including U.S. military aid to Egypt and the joint military production program.

Following these talks, Gen Abu-Talib stated that the United States had assured him that it will continue to respond to Egypt's defense needs in the future. It is known that Egypt is receiving U.S. military aid to the tune of $1.2 billion annually.

The Egyptian defense minister thanked Cheney for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him and the Egyptian military delegation accompanying him. He also underlined the friendly ties between the two countries. He said that the talks which were held today confirmed the close relations between the two countries, particularly in the military field. He said that these relations go back 14 years. He added that he agreed on the need to maintain, strengthen, and develop these relations on the basis of joint cooperation and commitment.

The Egyptian defense minister affirmed that he welcomes a visit by Richard Cheney to Egypt in the near future. The U.S. defense secretary explained in response to a question in this regard that the date of his visit to Egypt has not been set yet, but it may take place at the beginning of next year. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Meets U.S Senator, Israeli Ambassador

NC1008130389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received U.S Senator Peter Domenici, who stated after the meeting that his visit to Egypt is part of a tour of the Middle East region, which includes Jordan and Israel as well.

The senator said his meeting with President Mubarak was very good and cordial and dealt with the good bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States, international issues, economic issues, and the positive development of the Egyptian economy.

The president also received this morning Israeli Ambassador Shim'on Shamir, who stated after the meeting that the meeting discussed the peace process and ways of moving it forward. The two also discussed bilateral relations.

Papers Blame Israel for Hostage Crisis

NC1108082889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR emphasize that the recent hostage crisis is the result of Israel's intransigence and its desire to impose its hegemony even by piratical methods.

The papers note that the hostage crisis is one of the negative effects of the lack of action toward resolving the Palestinian and Lebanese issues. AL-AHRAM urges action to bolster the peace efforts and the prompt convening of an international conference to attain a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The newspaper urges the U.S. Administration to strengthen its dialogue with the PLO, raise it to a higher level, and convince Israel that it is not possible to speak of peace in the Middle East in the absence of the Palestinians and their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

The paper says in conclusion that it believes that the heightened international interest in the hostage crisis is a golden opportunity to discuss all aspects of the Middle East situation, particularly the Lebanese and Palestinian issues. It stresses that unless the basic roots of the conflict are dealt with directly, crisis and tension will continue.

In an editorial entitled "Arab Blood Is Not Cheap," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that Israeli leaders are governed by a strange and bizarre logic so that whenever an Israeli soldier or Jewish settler is injured by an Arab fedayee, whether in the occupied territories or the so-called security zone which Israel invented to impose its control by force over a part of Lebanon, Israeli officials become enraged and accuse Arabs of terrorism. At the same time repressive acts against the Arabs are stepped up as though Palestinian or Lebanese blood were worthless.

The paper asserts that no impartial observer can describe fedayeen operations in the occupied territories, Israel, or Lebanon that are launched in retaliation for the incessant Israeli aggression as terrorist in any way because they are merely forms of legitimate struggle against repression and occupation and are accepted as such under international law and conventions. The paper says that such operations are a reaction to an Israeli aggression that is boundless in its brutality.

AL-AKHBAR says that the recent suicide attacks against Israeli troops have revealed that those who carry them out are increasingly prepared to sacrifice themselves and be martyred. It adds that the Tel Aviv leaders must fully understand this, because its consequences for the lives and safety of their citizens and troops are bound to be terrible.

AL-AKHBAR: 35 Exteremists Arrested

JN1008172689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Aug 89 p 1

[By Lutfi 'Abd-al-Shafi]

[Text] Damanhur—Disturbances have taken place in the city of al-Mahmudiyah in al-Buhayrah Governorate during which some extremist elements set fire to an electrician's store. Major General Ibrahim al-Shaykh and Brigadier General Ahmad Salih al-'Abd, criminal investigation chief, led large security forces to the area and managed to control the situation and prevent further disturbances.

Some 35 suspects were apprehended. Investigations are being held by the prosecution.

Court Releases Al-Fayyum Riot Defendants

NC1008120589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—At its session today under counselor Muhammad Kamal Samahah, the higher state security court decided to release all those charged in connection with illegal assembly and rioting in al-Fayyum. A total of 55 members of the al-Jihad organization, foremost among whom is Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the organization, had been indicted in this case.

The court decided to release some detainees unconditionally, while others were released on the condition that they keep the authorities notified of their places of residence.

Regarding the case in which three members of the al-Jihad organization are accused of placing a bomb in a Cairo theater, the court decided to remand defendant Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad in custody until its 1 October session and to free defendant Muhammad Hamid on 100 pounds bail. The third defendant is still at large. [passage omitted]

Opposition Welcomes NDP Call For Dialogue

NC1008163989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian opposition parties have commended the National Democratic Party's [NDP] call for a national dialogue among Egyptian parties to attack various political and economic problems.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Socialist Liberal Party, has stated that inviting parties to a democratic dialogue was the right thing for the NDP. He stressed that this will provide the opportunity to listen to various views and ultimately reach the optimal solutions for the problems facing our society. He added that such a dialogue will prove to all that, regardless of our orientations, we are all Egyptians and that Egyptian interests come before all others.

Ahmad al-Sabbahi, Ummah Party leader, for his part said this step consolidates democratic principles and provides an example to be followed in the entire region. He added that Egypt's problems are ours, and we have to face them together.

Anis Mansur Appointed NDP Paper Chief Editor

NC1008130889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as chairman of the National Democratic Party [NDP], today issued a decree appointing Anis Mansur as chief editor of the NDP organ MAYU.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following his meeting with President Mubarak today.

The former MAYU chief editor, Ibrahim Sa'dah, had expressed his wish to devote his time to his position as editor in chief of the weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM.

Central Bank To Raise Dollar Rate 13 Aug

JN1008181689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Aug 89 p 1

[By Faraj Abu-al-'Izz]

[Text] The Egyptian Central Bank will begin implementing the new dollar exchange rate of 110 piasters as of next Sunday [13 August]. This represents a 20 percent increase from the current dollar exchange rate of 70 piasters. AL-AKHBAR has learned that the dollar exchange rate will be gradually raised at the Central Bank foreign currency pool until it becomes equivalent to the free market exchange rate within 6 years.

A responsible economic source told AL-AKHBAR that prices of the essential commodities financed by the Central Bank will not be affected by this increase. Such commodities include tea, sugar, cooking oil, wheat, and flour.

The revenues of the Central Bank foreign currency pool come from cotton, petroleum, and rice exports, as well as Suez Canal and Sumid [name as published] pipeline returns. Food imports and payments of foreign obligations are financed by it.

Mauritania

Government on Status of Repatriates in Senegal

AB1008111789 Dakar PANA in French 0824 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 10 Aug (AMP/PANA)—Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed stated yesterday that the Senegalese Government plans to grant refugee status to some of its own citizens recently repatriated from Mauritania, claiming that they were Mauritanian repatriates expelled from their country. Mauritania recalls that these so-called repatriates are, in reality, Senegalese citizens repatriated from Mauritania "at the request of the Senegalese authorities who, apparently, did not very much appreciate the large size of the Senegalese community in Mauritania," Lemine Ould Ahmed pointed out. He added that this "subterfuge" is aimed at making the international community assist these Senegalese for a long time to come. Several neutral observers have pointed out the "false" disguise of these Senegalese citizens who have never visited Mauritania as "repatriates," said the Mauritanian information minister who drew the attention of humanitarian organizations to these pernicious maneuvers which, he concluded, are aimed at perpetuating a situation that threatenes peace in the subregion.

Minister Rejects Senegalese Claims of Refugees

LD1108002189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation today sent a message to the UN high commissioner for refugees, and here is the text:

Mr High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs: We learned through the information media that the Senegalese Government, with the assistance of some international organizations, including yours, is now waging a campaign to carry out a census of alleged refugees and Mauritanians in Senegal. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has the honor to draw your attention to the following remarks [words indistinct].

First, the government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania confirms once again that the only Mauritanians in Senegal are those who are (?being held) by the Senegalese authorities, which are preventing them from returning to their country. As for the measures taken by Senegal, they are only aimed at [words indistinct] the United Nations [words indistinct]. Also, the Senegalese authorities and the foreign press admit only a number of Senegalese [words indistinct].

The Senegalese Government, which continuously refuses a serious dialogue aimed at improving relations between the two states, is pursuing a policy of escaping from [word indistinct] and diverting the attention of the Senegalese people from the real problems which face it.

Thus, after the Senegalese at a high level insisted last April on the return of the citizens of the two countries, we now find it rejecting the consequent results.

Second, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania reminds that the Senegalese Government 2 years ago—before the serious events that took place in April—registered several Senegalese citizens as Mauritanian refugees with the foreign organizations in Dakar in order to (?get) assistance and compensation.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania expresses strong (?reservations) vis-a-vis this shameful operation. [Words indistinct] the UN High Commission for Refugees should not be used by the Senegalese authorities [words indistinct] through which they try to organize and develop the gathering centers to maintain a hotbed of tension in the region. [passage indistinct]

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Tripartite Committee Envoy

LD1008153189 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Rabat, Aug. 10 (MAP)—King Hassan II Wednesday [9 August] received at the Royal Palace in Shirat (a summer resort to the south of Rabat) special enovy of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with settling the Lebanese crisis and Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

The evolution of the situation on the Lebanese and international scenes following the recent release of a communique by the foreign ministers of the committee's member countries was reviewed during the audience. [passage omitted]

Polisario Front Official Arrives 9 Aug

LD1008214989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 9 August, Omar Hadrami arrived in Morocco, the founding member of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Western Sahara)] and representative of this movement in North America. He came from Washington via New York.

On arrival at Mohamed V Airport, the senior Polisario Front official said that his return to the Kingdom of Morocco came in response to the call made by His Majesty King Hassan II in his speech of November 1988. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Information has confirmed the arrival of Omar Hadrami in the national territory in which he has decided to settle. The Ministry of Information pointed out that the true name of Omar Hadrami is 'Ali Adhri who was born in 1949 in (Assa), Goulimine. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit

LD1108004989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first reaction to this issue has come from the Saharan side. A Saharan information source of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Embassy in Algiers said that Mr Omar Hadrami, a member of the Polisario Front who has decided to stay in Morocco, has from the start been an infiltrated agent, and that it is at this precise moment that he has returned to his emp' oyer.

The source pointed out that by doing this, he has exempted the Saharan services from taking the necessary measures against Hadrami.

The Saharan source added that this return operation had cost $15,000 paid at the Moroccan Embassy in Washington.

Sudan

Ex-Minister Reportedly Escapes to Libya

NC1008103689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Aug (MENA)—In a news dispatch from Khartoum, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD asserted today that Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, former Sudanese interior minister and cousin of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is wanted by the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, had managed to escape to the Libyan city of al-Kufrah.

The paper said Mubarak al-Fadil had telephoned his family in Khartoum from his residence in the city of al-Kufrah after he succeeded in secretly crossing from Sudan to Libya via the desert.

Government Begins Probe of Former Official

NC1108054889 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 10 (AFP)—Investigations into alleged financial and administrative malpractices by ousted Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his regime began Thursday with a probe into former Presidential College member Idris al-Banna, the junta's daily reported.

ARMED FORCES, the only paper allowed to appear since the June 30 coup, quoted committee chairman General 'Atif 'Awad Agaraeb [name as received] as saying Mr. al-Banna would be tried by a military court.

Mr. al-Banna's name figured prominently in junta television reports of illegal hoarding of basic necessities.

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Delegation

EA0908215289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] This morning Mr 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister, met the visiting Libyan information delegation. They discussed the new policies of the National salvation revolution and the bilateral relations between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The meeting stressed the principle of keeping away from the policy of axes and the need for joint cooperation in various economic and social fields, and discussed ways of supporting and developing this and the efforts being made to establish peace at the Arab and African level, as well as Sudan's economic problems.

RCC Member Cited on Domestic, Regional Issues

LD1008204289 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, Hannibal [August] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A press team from Great Jamahiriyah conducted an interview with Staff Brigadier

al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir the member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] in Sudan who talked about a number of issues facing Sudan.

In the beginning of the interview he talked about the shortcomings of parties saying "all parties in Sudan had been disolved. The Sudanese citizen had had enough of them as a result of their practices which were characterized by favoring, corruption and disregards of people's interest..."

He added, "We will rebuild Sudan as a whole taking advantage of all past experiences whether they were Sudanese or experiences of brothers and to live to the Arab people of Sudan to decide how to go about achieving its goals...

"Nobody can impose the form of rule on the Arab people of Sudan. The revolution leadership in Sudan will give the choice to the people to decide the type of rule...

"Our concern in the beginning is to provide the absent basic needs for the Sudanese people."

He asserted the importance of the fraternal link between the one people of Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan to achieve the strategic nationalist interest.

He spoke about the Palestine Arab cause explaining that Sudan's attitude towards the central Arab issue is a firm one which stems from a popular will. He stressed that the Palestine cause cannot be a field for any bargaining. "We cannot give up the cause".

Staff Brigadier al-Tajini Ahmad al-Tahir saluted the progress towards achieving peace in Chad pointing out that Sudan and Great Jamahiriyah are in agreement to extend a helping hand for the African brothers in Chad to bring peace back to it.

Kuwait

Paper on 'Ambiguous' U.S. Middle East Policy

LD1108105189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 11 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti paper Friday blamed the U.S. contradictory and biased policy in favor of Israel for the crises in the Middle East, including the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said in an editorial comment today that the U.S. official policy in the Middle East seldom conforms with realities and is characterized by duplicity.

On reports about behind-the-scene negotiations by the U.S. to trade off Iranian frozen assets for the hostages in Lebanon, the newspaper observed that Washington opted to remain open-minded in such a small crisis.

"But in bigger crises," it stressed, "the U.S. prefers to shut off its eyes, mind and heart."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM concluded by attributing complexity of conditions in the Middle East to the U.S. ambiguous policy, multiple stands and loss of credibility, saying Washington "tells the Arab leaders what it can not say to Israel and asks the latter for what it can not do by itself."

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ends Visit 5 Aug

LD0608035489 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Indonesian foreign minister, Mr Ali Alatas, left Kuwait tonight after a 2-day visit during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir from the Indonesian president. He also held talks with the acting prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

During his visit, the Indonesian minister also met with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-'Adhbi, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Foreign Minister Returns From Libya, Syria 9 Aug

EA1008202089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, returned to Aden this evening after spending several days in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, brother Al-Dali said that his meetings with officials in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the Syrian Arab Republic were positive and good. Bilateral relations and ways of developing and strengthening them were discussed. He added that during his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, it was agreed that the joint committee would meet next September to discuss areas of cooperation. A number of topical Arab issues and international problems which are directly related to Arab countries were discussed.

Referring to his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, the brother foreign minister explained that he met his brother, the Syrian foreign minister, and had talks on bilateral relations, conditions in Lebanon, and the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people. They also discussed the implementation of agreements signed during the recent visit of the Syrian prime minister to Democratic Yemen.

At the end of his statement, brother Dr al-Dali affirmed that contacts and cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the Syrian Arab Republic in various fields would continue. [passage omitted]

Youth Delegation Leaves for Iraq 8 Aug

EA1008155589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Salih Sha'if, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Yemen Youth Union [DYYU], left Aden this morning for Baghdad, at the head of a youth delegation, at the invitation of the National Union of Students and Youth of Iraq [NUSYI]. In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Salih Sha'if pointed out that this visit comes within the framework of strengthening the brotherly relations between the DYYU and youth and students of Iraq, which will constitute a positive step toward cementing these relations.

He pointed out that he was carrying a written message from Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, to his brother, Saddam Husayn, president of the sisterly Iraqi Republic, concerning the strengthening and development of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples, and some Arab and international issues of common interest.

Brother Salih Sha'if affirmed that the DYYU's delegation will, during its visit, hold consultations with the leadership of the NUSYI concerning forms of bilateral cooperation between the two youth organizations in the two countries and a number of issues linked to the strengthening of the unity of the Arab and international youth and student movement, in order to face the current challenges in the region. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegation Arrives 9 Aug

EA1008153589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpt] This morning, Brother Abu-al-Ma'mun, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Liberation Front, arrived in Aden on a visit to our country that will last several days in response to an invitation by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he said: We are paying a visit to Democratic Yemen, our second country, with which we are linked by firm relations in that we have always been in one trench in confronting the Zionist imperialist force. He pointed out the consistent stand of Democratic Yemen and the YSP with regard to the Palestinian revolution. He added that he would discuss with brothers in the YSP the latest political developments in relation to the Palestinian cause, the Arab nation, and bilateral relations, and acquaint himself with the latest developments in the city [as heard] of Democratic Yemen. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Official Meets PDRY Deputy Culture Minister

EA0808222189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A session of talks on culture and information was held in Sanaa today between the two parts of the homeland chaired by Brothers Faruq al-Hakimi, deputy minister of culture and information and 'Ali Ibn-'Ali Sabrah, deputy minister of culture and information in the northern part of the homeland.

During the meeting, a number of issues germane to coordination between the two parts in the fields of information and culture were discussed, including exchanges of radio and television programs, news, and a number of other matters.

Brother al-Hakimi spoke at the beginning of the talks. Brother al-Hakimi said that the primary concern of the meeting would be the implementation of the contents of the minutes of the agreement signed by the ministers of culture in the two parts of the homeland.

Further on Meeting

EA0908120689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] In Sanaa today, Brother Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Permanent Committee, received Brother Faruq al-Hakimi, deputy minister of culture and information, and the heads of information institutions in the southern part of the homeland. They discussed aspects of information and cultural cooperation between the two parts in the context of what served national trends towards restoration of Yemeni unity. Brother Al-Lawzi welcomed his brother Al-Hakimi and his companions, referring to the responsibilities vested in the information organs in the two parts and their coverage of the unificatory steps which have been taken during the unification process, and their implementation.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Ali Ibn-'Ali Sabrah, deputy minister of information and culture in the northern part of the homeland, Mutahhar Taqi, secretary of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the cultural sector, and the members of the delegations of the two parts of the homeland attending the talks on information and culture between the two parts.

Tariq 'Aziz Interviewed on Lebanon, Sudan, Iran

PM1008105689 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
7 Aug 89 pp 9-14

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Fu'ad Matar on 25 July in Baghdad]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Matar] Minister, do you not believe that the Casablanca summit conference, on which the nation pinned high hopes—as indeed it did when summit conferences were held in the past—has so far changed nothing in Syria's handling of the Lebanese crisis, and that the Syrian regime's attitude to that summit and its resolution is the same as Iran's attitude to UN Resolution 598? What is the solution?

['Aziz] I will give you a frank answer to this question. Most of the Arab states and Arab leaders who attended the Casablanca summit conference, as well as their aides, particularly the foreign ministers, were convinced to varying degrees that the Syrian presence in Lebanon or the Syrian occupation of Lebanon, call it what you will, was the biggest obstacle to a settlement of the Lebanese question. That does not mean that there are no other obstacles or problems; nor does it mean that they [Arab leaders] were not concerned about Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon or about the political differences between Lebanese leaders. The prevailing conviction, however, was that the Syrian presence was the prime obstacle. Some Arab states imagined or, to put it frankly, were under the illusion, that the Syrian regime itself felt that it was bogged down in Lebanon and was perhaps looking for a suitable way—or as, they say in diplomatic language, a face-saving way—out of Lebanon. The six-member committee had that idea or illusion before the Casablanca conference, and the idea (illusion) was carried to the Casablanca conference. It was on that basis that the Casablanca summit resolutions and measures related to the Lebanese crisis were drafted—on the theory that, as an Arab state, Syria was bound to seek a solution to the Lebanese problem along with the other Arab states, that although it may have acceptable or unacceptable views, Syria was in the end bound to join the Arab group in the search for a way out of the current situation in Lebanon. On the basis of that same theory, formulas suitable to all parties including Syria would be sought.

Iraq's position before that—when the six-member committee was formed—and at the summit conference was that the Syrian regime was adamant or that it had certain designs in Lebanon and it saw its presence there not as something it was dragged into but as something it wanted. That is why it was preferable for the Arab group or the Arab summit to tackle the Lebanese question on that basis and to make the Syrian regime understand, at an early stage, that it must leave Lebanon to enable the Lebanese, with Arab help, to restore Lebanon's national unity and revive its constitutional institutions so that Lebanon could again be a secure, independent Arab country.

While emphasizing that theory of ours, we did not object or refrain from giving the committee's option a chance. So we supported the tripartite committee, facilitated its mission, and took all the attitudes and steps it asked of us to ensure its success.

It is now clear that it is not a question of finding a suitable or a face-saving way out of Lebanon for the Syrians. It is now clear that the Syrian regime does not want to take its hands off Lebanon and that when it made a precondition or a request and the tripartite committee tried to respond to it in some way, it made a second and a third request and so on until, as far as I know, it became impossible for the committee to respond. You can see as we talk today that the situation in Lebanon is deteriorating further and is intensifying and becoming more serious, with the chances of a solution receding.

In my view, the summit did not fail. It made a final attempt to eliminate any possible pretexts that the Syrian regime could use to remain in Lebanon. It was necessary for those who were not so convinced to be convinced and for those who entertained the illusion that the Syrian regime could cooperate somehow or other in resolving the Lebanese problem to shed such illusions.

Now at this point the truth must be faced directly, and the truth is that the Syrian presence is the disease and the Lebanese problem cannot be resolved unless that is removed.

[Matar] Does the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] take a unified stance on Sudanese developments, or are there several stances? I ask this because it has been noticed that the reactions do not indicate a unified stance. In your view, is that in harmony with the ACC spirit?

Is Iraq happy with what is happening in Sudan, and what did the [Sudanese] brothers ask of you? Naturally, as has been the custom under President Saddam Husayn's leadership, when an Arab state seeks certain things and has certain needs, if Iraq is able to grant them it immediately does so.

['Aziz] When the recent change occurred in Sudan we in the ACC initially exchanged information and analyses regarding that change. During our recent meeting in Amman we also exchanged information and analyses of that event in an Arab country that we care about. Do we have a unfied stance or not? To be accurate, I must say that we all proceed from the same position when it comes to internal events in the Arab countries, in the sense that we all believe—without interference in the internal affairs of any Arab country—that the situation in any Arab country should be one under which that

country could maintain its sovereignty and national unity, a situation which meets that country's requirements for security, stability, and economic, social, and cultural development. That is the common wish of Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, and Egypt for all the Arab countries without—and I stress, without—any individual or collective desire to interfere in the domestic affairs of others. However, when a change occurs and our aid is sought then we must discuss the matter. We are united regarding these aspects of what has happened, but we have raised some questions and addressed them directly to the Sudanese delegation which visited us, in a fraternal and frank manner. We said that Sudan's history is there for us all to examine. [passage omitted]

With the Sudanese and with our ACC colleagues, we raise the following question: Can a purely military regime resolve Sudan's problems? That method and government formula was tried in the past. Some would say that the parties also failed. Yes, the parties did fail, but the Army also failed in the past. So in both theory and practice, a new government formula must be sought in Sudan. Keeping the purely military formula as the sole government formula that could lead once again to the old formula of civilian rule, Sudan would continue to move in a vicious circle, with no way out—a vicious circle of successive failures by traditional parties and successive failures by the military institution. That is what we think and believe, and this belief stems from our love and concern for Sudan, and, without interfering in Sudan's internal affairs, we have told the Sudanese so. We repeat that we believe that a new formula must be found, and it is up to the Sudanese to find it. We have no desire to give them any lessons in this connection. The people of Mecca know its routes best. [Islamic proverb] They must find a new formula that provides the necessary foundations to preserve Sudan's unity and enable it to attain peace, security, and stability and to improve the economy and ensure the people's genuine participation in life.

[Matar] We receive many letters in which people ask: Why does Iran delay implementation of Resolution 598? We tell them something to the effect that since it was unable to continue the hot war, it tried for many years to create a state of cold war which it could turn into a hot war when armaments permit. What can we tell these people on your behalf?

['Aziz] Those who ask that question have a perfectly legitimate point and are not far from the truth. As you know, Iran did not accept Resolution 598 when it was issued. When the Security Council drafted that resolution it did so in a fully balanced manner to ensure that the resolution would be a suitable plan for a comprehensive peace settlement acceptable to both sides. [passage omitted]

They accepted Resolution 598 under conditions of a crushing military defeat. Since accepting Resolution 598 they have not moved a single step in the direction of comprehensive and lasting peace. We have the 8 August 1988 agreement with them reached through the UN secretary general. That agreement stipulates that a cease-fire would come into effect on 20 August and that direct negotiations—and I emphasize, direct—would begin between the two countries' foreign ministers under the general secretary's supervision with the aim of reaching common understanding of the resolution's remaining provisions and of measures and timetables for implementation, or, in other words, of reaching a common understanding of the Security Council's peace plan and then agreeing on measures and timetables.

Since 25 August, when we started our negotiations—or, rather, meetings, because there have been no negotiations, but only meetings under the supervision of the secretary general, and to this day the Iranian side has refused to enter into real direct negotiations with us [sentence as published]. At all the meetings attended by us, the Iranian delegation addressed the secretary general while we sat opposite it. The Iranian foreign minister and delegation refused to hold serious direct talks, in the sense of our sitting around the negotiating table and exchanging views, talking, and discussing the issues before us. Then they refused to accept or address the letter and spirit of the 8 August agreement which aimed at reaching a common understanding of the peace plan and then of related measures and timetables.

What does that mean? When the Iranian minister refuses to talk to me directly it means that he does not want to commit himself to anything in front of me. Any commitment he makes in front of me would have to be a commitment to peace between the two countries, because we would be considering implementation of a peace plan.

From the very outset the Iranian side resorted to its known method of concentrating on one point to isolate it from others by playing with words and waging a propaganda war. You have called it a cold war. Yes, it is a propaganda war which is a kind of cold war. So, the Iranian regime has not made a clear decision to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq. Its decision so far is to maintain the state of neither war nor peace. It is concentrating only on the withdrawal of forces and says that the current [Iraqi] presence in some Iranian territory is a result of the cease-fire. It stresses this point alone, and in all our meetings it discusses this matter alone.

Well, we all say that this matter deserves discussion, but let us discuss the other matters too. What are your commitments to us under Resolution 598? What is your concept of future relations with us? How could we and you make our 1,200-km borders secure? What is the situation regarding interference in internal affairs? These issues must be discussed and solutions to them found if we are to say that we have achieved peace.

The Iranian regime has evaded discussion of any of these issues. That is bound to strengthen our suspicion that the Iranian regime wants to maintain the state of neither war nor peace, pending some future development. I cannot deny that the Iranian regime is planning a new war. I cannot deny that the Iranian regime is looking for opportunities and resources to resume its past policies not only toward Iraq but also toward the other countries of the region, because so far it has not solved its problems with the countries of the region. Its attitude to Saudi Arabia has not changed. Its relations with the Gulf states are still open to all kinds of possibilities. Its relations with the outside world are still based on the same old selective opportunistic method used during the war years—that of exploiting one opportunity or another to strengthen its military, political, or economic position.

It has not yet formulated a foreign policy that can provide reassurance that it is a peaceful policy based on respect for international law, commitment to good-neighborly relations, and recourse to negotiations as a way of solving problems in accordance with the principles governing relations in modern times.

The press asks: What will the situation be like following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election as president and the stabilization of power? That is a question for the Iranian side to answer. We will wait. If we saw a willingness to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace and real stability in the region, then Iraq and all other countries in the region would respond most sincerely, but at the same time we should not be naive and we should be cautious in dealing with the Iranian regime.

[Matar] Do you expect the UN General Assembly ordinary session to develop into an unusual session in the sense of reflecting more vitality in relation to the question of Iraq-Iran peace and that of the Palestinian state, since this is the first session since President George Bush officially assumed power and the first since Iraq triumphed and compelled Iran to accept Resolution 598?

['Aziz] As an observer of the situation, I cannot say that the next UN General Assembly session will be an unusual one. True, there have been new developments in the region and the world over the past year—developments of a positive nature in relation to the UN role and activities—but all these things are still in the early stages. As I explained in answer to previous question, the situation between Iraq and Iran does not allow a very major step by the United Nations during this session. It seems from the contacts we have had that the secretary general plans to hold contacts with us and the Iranian side, perhaps during the the Belgrade conference and during this [UN] session to resume meetings with the two sides in October or November. There will certainly be intensive contacts during the session with a number of states concerned with the situation in the region.

The Palestinian question will perhaps receive more attention at this session than it did last year. Developments affecting the Palestinian question have occurred in the year from September 1988 to September 1989, and these developments cannot be ignored. There will be some political and diplomatic activity in that respect.

Will George Bush make more effort than Reagan did? I do not know. Reagan used to attend and address past UN General Assembly sessions. Perhaps the new U.S. President will come and speak. At any rate, so far as the Palestinian question is concerned, if the U.S. position does not come out of its cocoon then the situation will be a negative one because everyone expects the U.S. position to improve.

[Matar] Did the Iranian stance and procrastination on the question of direct negotiations surprise you, both on a state and diplomatic level?

['Aziz] No, it did not come as a surprise to us as a state or as diplomats, because we know how Iran came to accept Resolution 598 and we know that when Iran officially accepted Resolution 598 some people believed that that was the end and that peace would prevail. I went to New York and on the instructions of the Iraqi leadership, I agreed to hold direct negotiations. Some people said: Why? Iran has accepted the resolution. We said: Yes, Iran accepted it, but we should not forget how it came to accept it and we must not forget that Iran previously rejected Resolution 598, all previous Security Council resolutions, and a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Acceptance now does not mean that everything is finished and that peace will prevail. We must first be sure of Iran's intentions. Direct negotiations are one way of making sure. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Is there a possibility of a round of negotiations before the Hashemi-Rafsanjani reign begins?

['Aziz] No, I do not believe so. Judging from our latest contacts with the UN secretary general, there are no plans to resume meetings before October. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Iran is actively trying to obtain arms and aid to rebuild its military power destroyed by Iraq in the years of war. If that buildup assumes an aggressive and warlike nature, what would be the state of relations between Iraq and the states helping Iran to that end?

['Aziz] This matter has been raised with us recently, and we have said that there is no harm in establishing normal relations with Iran in the economic, cultural, and other civilian domains. That, we said, could even be beneficial, because it could normalize the abnormal Iranian situation somehow or other. However, it would be a negative move to supply arms to Iran, because there is no justification for arming Iran.

It was claimed that Iran was seeking defensive weapons. So we asked: Against whom? Who threatens Iran? If the threat comes from the Soviet Union, well, it is the Soviet Union which has decided to supply arms to Iran. Turkey has no plans to attack Iran, nor has Pakistan. Afghanistan is too weak to threaten Iran. That leaves Iraq and the Gulf states. Iraq and the Gulf states want peace with Iran, and they were victims of Iranian aggression and expansionism. They are not a threat to Iran: Iran is a threat to them.

Any arms supplied to Iran would be a threat to the security of Iraq and the Gulf states and we cannot feel happy about arming Iran. How could we view such a move with satisfaction when it constitutes a threat to our nation? We have said so frankly to the Soviets and others who have supplied Iran with arms or who may do so. A positive contribution to the situation in the region cannot be made by supplying arms to Iran. [passage omitted]

Latif Jasim Discusses Regional Topics

PM1108080889 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Aug 89 pp 26-27

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by Jihad Fadil in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-HAWADITH] How do you view the present situation in Lebanon? Can any detente take place?

[Jasim] Since the events began in Lebanon in the early seventies the president leader has always emphasized that the solution must be Lebanese and there must be no winners and losers among the Lebanese parties. When those operating behind the scenes depart, the Lebanese will unite. This, because we see no causes of disunity in the minds of most Lebanese. We know that certain conditions were imposed on the Lebanese and caused them them to fight each other. Then the situation developed, and there emerged the Zionist conspiracy now being implemented on Lebanon's territory, which we consider an experiment in partitioning and sectarian fragmentation which, if successful, will spread to the other Arab states. This is why we consider that Lebanese national security is security not for Lebanon alone, but for the entire Arab nation. And intervening to salvage what can be salvaged is a pan-Arab matter more than a national matter concerning Lebanon alone.

The Arabs must dress the wounds of the Lebanese, because they are exposed to a harsh, inhumane, and unjust tragedy which no zealous Arab can accept. What wrong have women, children, and old people done? What is the reason for the destruction over a number of years of the civilization built by Lebanese efforts? Why should that beautiful picture (Lebanon) be torn up? In whose interest is all this? We see a complex future for the Lebanese question, but we profoundly hope that the tripartite committee's endeavors will bear fruit quickly. This, because every day that passes means further bloodshed, sabotage, destruction, and conflagrations in Lebanon.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about Iraq's present policy toward the superpowers, especially the Soviet Union? As you know, Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Moscow some time ago and concluded agreements intended to rearm the Iranian Army. Is there anything new with regard to a state to which you are bound by a friendship treaty?

[Jasim] We consider that any international party, great or small, that arms Iran harms Iraq's national security and our pan-Arab security. This, because Iran is aggressive and seeks to export so-called revolution. It still talks about its supposed 20 million-strong Army. So we consider any contribution by anyone harmful, whether the alleged purpose is defensive or offensive. It is the same in either case: There is no difference between a defensive weapon and an offensive weapon. So as long as the negotiations are in progress, it is wrong to arm Iran. This, because it will delude the Iranians and make them think that some international party or other wants the war to continue or that they have acquired more arms. But as an Arab, I tell you that the distance between us and them is now vast; that is, our military capabilities, our intrinsic capabilities—especially in the field of our military industry—and our combat capability are extraordinary. We address this point to those who supply arms: We consider this a historical, not a temporary, issue.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the war has ended completely?

[Jasim] As far as Iraq is concerned, we consider that the war ended on 8 August 1988, which is why we act as though the war has ended. We are rebuilding al-Basrah and al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory, and dressing the wounds of war. We are looking after those maimed in the war and working for the sake of reconstruction and life. The battle which the Iranians started on 4 September 1980 was crowned with a decisive victory on 8 August 1988. The fighters have been released, the special legion has been disbanded, and tens of thousands of fighters have returned to the state's departments and their normal lives. We are seeking reconstruction, and the country is witnessing an administrative revolution and a development of the national economy and of all aspects of life. We consider that the war has ended because, for our part, we are doing nothing to indicate that the war is still in progress or will erupt again. But if the Iranian regime dares, and wants, to rekindle the war, we will confront it and bear the consequences of aggression again, and when the war stops, we will continue building once again. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] With regard to the situation in the Palestinian arena, do you believe that there is real hope of the Palestinian and Israeli sides' achieving something positive vis-a-vis the establishment of the Palestinian state?

[Jasim] Since 1978 Iraq's position on, and view of, the Palestinian problem has been that we support any Palestinian approach, without entering into the details of Palestinian action or dictating solutions to them. This means that we consider the Palestinian option the right one, and the Arabs, in Iraq or anywhere else, must provide aid, support, and backing. There is another element, namely, the intifadah [uprising], which is a major factor. And the Arabs must not distort that brave intifadah by putting forward several different views and predictions about the future of the Palestinian question. We must provide the support, aid, and capabilities to enable the intifadah to continue and to escalate, because it is a major issue in the Palestinian Arab people's history. The intifadah emerged after 40 years of Zionist oppression and repression. This historic opportunity must not be wasted because of partisan issues. We must enable the Palestinian option to move forward and exploit this historic opportunity. As for forecasts, they are still incomplete, because we do not have details of the internal situation regarding the Palestinian decision, apart from the fact that there is no clarity on the question of upholding the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights vis-a-vis the parties backing the Zionist entity. All they are doing amounts to a maneuver to circumvent the intifadah, which is why we Arabs must provide moral, material, and intelligence support for the intifadah. This, because we are confident that the intifadah will produce a major result. [passage omitted]

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad 10 Aug

JN1008103989 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 10, INA—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here today coming from Tehran.

General Jovic's visit comes within his shuttle tours between Baghdad and Tehran to observe the work of the military observers in Iraq and Iran.

He was received at the airport by his assistant on the Iraqi side, U.N. resident representative in Baghdad and officers of coordination body with U.N. Military Observer Group.

Shamir 'Not Surprised' by Fatah Resolutions

TA1108104189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said there is nothing new in the hostage affair in Lebanon. On the resolutions adopted by the Fatah congress, Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning:

[Begin recording] We heard the opinion of the U.S. Administration today. I said a long time ago that nothing should be expected from the PLO. They have not changed their outlook or their attitude. They have made tactical changes, but they sometimes rescind even those. There is a certain radicalization in the congress' resolutions, but I am not surprised by that. [end recording]

Resolutions 'Extremely Negative'

TA1108113189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel agrees with the U.S. evaluation, as expressed by the State Department in Washington, that the resolutions adopted by the Fatah congress were extremely negative. He singled out the resolution calling for an escalation in the armed struggle against Israel, which contradicts the PLO's ambiguous remarks in the past on its preparedness to stop terror. The prime minister made the remarks in a meeting with U.S. congressmen in his Jerusalem office.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister also said that everything must be done to reunite the families of the Israeli POW's, and the families of the U.S. and Western hostages. We have a sacred moral duty to bring the boys back home, and to do everything we can to achieve that goal, Yitzhaq Shamir said.

'Chasm' Seen Between PLO, Tel Aviv Positions

TA2807142489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat: "Movement in the PLO"]

[Text] Ever since December 1988 when 'Arafat publicly disavowed terrorism and accepted Israel's right to exist, he has been pursuing the "salami method," gradually stripping the PLO of the hawkish conceptions that have characterized it for so many years.

The Palestinian stance has undergone a process of step-by-step moderation. When the Israeli Government announced its "peace initiative," the PLO rejected the idea outright. Later, the PLO withdrew its opposition to elections, provided Israel first withdraws from the territories. Subsequently, it consented to elections with a partial Israeli withdrawal. Now the organization is about to make a decision. For the first time, it has announced that the Palestinian people agree to elections, provided the elections are part of a comprehensive solution.

This provision is acceptable to Shamir, the second stage of whose two-phased plan envisions negotiations for a permanent solution.

As for substance, however, a chasm divides the parties: 'Arafat has made the move contingent not only on granting refugees the right of return, but also on an advance setting of a date when Palestinian independence would be declared.

Can 'Arafat be unaware of the fact that where these two cardinal issues are involved, he is destined to encounter almost wall-to-wall opposition in Israel? Even the Israeli left wing, not to mention the Alignment and the center, oppose the return of the refugees of 1948. As for independence, why hold elections and conduct negotiations, if the date of their state's establishment is set in advance?

In his unusual message, Abu-Sharif softened the picture. In general, all the recent developments emit the odor of a familiar psychological warfare: One thing is said in Cairo, while another version is devised for Tel Aviv, with an epilogue saying that "we regret it if the two versions contradict each other...."

Shamir Seen 'Resolute,' 'Determined' on Plan

TA2807131889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 p E1

[Editorial: "Mr Shamir Means Business"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is offering ample proof—in his actions and in the political risks he is taking—that he is resolute in his intention and determined in his mind to promote the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

He is refuting all evaluations appearing in various places, mainly newspaper columns, according to which the initiative is nothing but a public relations ploy designed to please the United States during Shamir's visit to Washington.

His meetings with Palestinians from the territories—when he knows without a doubt that such meetings cannot take place without the PLO's prior approval and without a later report of their contents—underline his tenacity and commitment. Anyone wishing for the renewal of the peace process and progress in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should support him and hope he is successful.

Mr Shamir is not naive. He should know that the practical significance of elections in the territories is self-determination. The elections can have no other meaning. They will go down in history as the act in which the Palestinian residents of the territories expressed their self-determination.

The Palestinians have not rejected the peace initiative, which is another sign of their political maturity. In the past they specialized in rejecting proposals that would have allowed them—perhaps after following a long and winding road—to realize many of their aspirations. Even the current Israeli initiative in its suggested direction is a proposal of this kind.

The almost guaranteed result of autonomy and elections in that order (as offered in the Camp David accords) or in the opposite order (as in the government's peace initiative) is the consolidation of a separate Palestinian entity, with the aid of Israel.

This does not mean that the initiative must inevitably lead to an independent Palestinian state, but what will eventually come into being will not be far from it.

Mr Shamir does not want this, nor do most Israelis. We can only hope and believe that over the coming years, within the framework of autonomy and beyond, the Palestinian entity that will be created will be amenable to peaceful coexistence and will pose no critical threat to Israel.

The Israeli Government and Mr Shamir are encountering serious difficulties in pursuing their policies while the intifadah [uprising] is still raging. It must not seem as though the diplomatic process is a result of Israeli weakness while simultaneously expressing the victory of the uprising. What is needed here is maneuverability and the massive assistance of the defense establishment to restore calm as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In recent months there have been signs that quiet has slowly been returning. The combination of military pressure and economic misery has been taking its toll. It can be safely assumed that the sense of accomplishment among the Palestinians in the territories, and their belief that they actually control the territory, helps moderate the violence.

A decisive majority of the people support the prime minister in his attempts to promote his initiative. It should not be taken lightly. It includes many risks. But domestic pressures, especially from within the Likud—such as the threats by the three hardline ministers who initiated the braces—or taunts by the extreme left, at this stage can only lead Shamir into making hasty decisions on the peace initiative—decisions that will not be based on objective considerations.

Labor Leaders Criticize Shamir's Comparison

TA1108071289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 89 p 16

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Labor Party leaders yesterday lashed out at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for comparing the party to Fatah at the Likud ministers' meeting on Wednesday [9 August].

"What kind of comparison is this, between the Labor Party and the PLO?" demanded Labour chairman and Vice-Premier Shim'on Peres on a tour in the north. "Maybe Shamir thinks he needs this kind of comparison to justify sitting with the PLO, because he does sit with the Labor Party.

"I was amazed by Shamir's manner. From now on he will now have to make a supreme effort to have his statements taken seriously."

Shamir had said that the one thing in common between Labor's Central Committee resolutions and the Fatah resolutions is that neither body's resolutions would be implemented.

Labor Knesset faction Chairman Hayim Ramon yesterday accused Shamir of inciting the public against Labor's official representatives, who are serving in senior posts in his cabinet.

"Again Shamir has proved that he has no commitment to the truth and does not stop at any lie, even the most crude and blatant, to achieve political goals," Ramon told THE JERUSALEM POST.

"In his statement," Ramon continued, "Shamir discarded the mask of concern about national unity and showed his true face, which spreads hatred and division in the nation," Ramon added.

Labor Party Secretary-General Mikha Harish said yesterday that Shamir cannot be taken seriously or trusted, because every time he speaks he shows a different face.

"One Shamir surrenders to Sharon and the second Shamir begs us (Labor) to stay in the government. One Shamir wanted to change the election system and another Shamir is sabotaging the attempt to change the election system. One Shamir meets people who are identified with the PLO, and another Shamir then compares the Labor Party to the PLO."

U.S. Condemnation of 'Ubayd Abduction Criticized

TA3007060489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jul 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Wolf Blitzer in Washington, David Horowitz in London, and Menahem Shalev in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Washington—President George Bush has indirectly criticized Israel's commando operation that resulted in the taking of a Hizballah militia leader in south Lebanon.

"I don't think kidnapping and violence helps the cause of peace," the President said tersely Friday [28 July].

Israel's ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arad, expressed displeasure at the President's statement. He told a State Department official that the action was part of the ongoing fight against terrorism.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 30 July adds that "the Tehiya Party says President Bush has ap ntly lost his shame. Tehiya's Knesset faction said the President's reservations about the arrest of Shaykh 'Ubayd indicated the legitimacy the United States had provided the PLO had led Bush to support every terrorist organization. Tehiya praised the Israeli Government for its action and hoped it would not now bow to pressure but go on acting against terrorist leaders.

"South Lebanese Army forces and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] are on the alert for retaliatory attacks by the Hizballah organization. IDF sources say, however, that they do not expect a military response from the organization because they say Israel's capture of Shaykh 'Ubayd was a hard psychological blow. They add that Hizballah is more concerned with the security of its remaining leaders."]

The Prime Minster's media adviser, Avi Pazner, last night sharply criticized the condemnation of the kidnapping, saying that "many countries are displaying a total lack of understanding of Israel's anti-terrorist activities."

"I don't remember that these countries expressed such indignation when Shaykh 'Ubayd sent people to murder and kill. We didn't hear such condemnations then," Pazner said.

He said the criticism against Israel was "absurd" as it comes at a time when "the world sees daily television reports about the Syrian artillery decimation of Beirut, in which dozens of people are being killed daily." To this, Pazner said, the world reacts with "total silence."

He added that Israeli action was "absolutely legitimate" and that criticism would not deter similiar actions in the future. "Countries which are not threatened by terrorism find it hard to grasp the situation, perhaps," he added.

The Foreign Ministry last night refused to comment specifically on the kidnapping. Dani Nave, the foreign minister's media adviser, said only that "Israel has never ceased its struggle against terrorism and will not refrain from future activity to prevent terrorist attacks."

But Minister Ehud Olmert deflected U.S. criticism of the action, saying: "I am sure that most Americans would have been proud had their government been able or willing to take similiar measures against the kidnappers of Americans."

"This operation is one of those things which you have to criticize for the record but deep in your heart you know it is the right thing to do," Olmert told THE JERUSALEM POST.

"Every terrorist must feel insecure everywhere and at all times," Olmert said. "If they know they will have to pay personally for encouraging terror they will think twice before authorizing those activities."

Asked about Israel's image as a law-breaking state, Olmert said: "In Lebanon it is ridiculous to talk about adhering to the law. Everyone violates the laws there, no one obeys the fundamental principals of human decency. How do you expect us to cope, unless it is by unconventional means?" [passage omitted]

'Ideal Example of U.S.-Israeli Symbiosis' Noted

TA1108060489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 89 p 1

["Background" by Dan Petreanu]

[Text] The direct contact established this week between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. President George Bush highlighted the main diplomatic achievement of the week, as far as Israel is concerned: The establishment of a "joint venture," as Shamir said in a private meeting yesterday, between Israel and the U.S. to free all the hostages held in Lebanon by the Hizballah.

Shamir initiated a 10-minute telephone call to Bush on Wednesday night.

The prime minister's aides noted with satisfaction that the U.S.—despite earlier rumblings by Bush that there was not enough coordination—now appreciates that Israel's abduction of Hizballah's Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd two weeks ago has created momentum that did not exist before towards resolving the perpetual hostage crisis in Lebanon.

Official circles in Jerusalem point to the process taking place—and to yesterday's TEHRAN TIMES report that a U.S.-Iran dialogue through Pakistan could begin as early as next week—as "an ideal example of U.S.-Israel symbiosis." After Israel used its "superb intelligence infrastructure" in Lebanon to carry out a perfectly

executed abduction of a top Shiite figure from deep inside hostile territory, its American ally employs its own vast international diplomatic resources to push forward the rest of the scenario.

At this moment, Israel is in the fairly passive position of waiting as the U.S. exercises its influence with Iran and Syria to push the Hizballah to accept Israel's offer of another lopsided prisoner exchange mediated by the International Red Cross. And the U.S. is prodding European powers such as Britain, the German Federal Republic, Italy and even Greece to do the same.

Cooperation Contacts With USSR Viewed

TA2807125289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 p 3

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Israel and the USSR have recently been holding contacts on extensive economic and technological cooperation, including the marketing of produce. Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el confirmed yesterday that there have been Israeli-Soviet trade contacts. He said the Foreign Ministry encourages trade ties with the USSR, on the assumption, of course, that they will benefit both sides.

Senior Soviet officials recently met with Arye Levin, head of the Israeli delegation in Moscow, and expressed the USSR's desire to import fruit and vegetables from Israel. The senior officials also said that the USSR is interested in purchasing technological know-how from Israel in the manufacture of food products, especially milk products.

These senior officials expressed the Kremlin's readiness to send immediate purchase orders to governments that are prepared to discuss aiding the USSR in the fields of agriculture, the conquest of the desert, and solar energy. It should be pointed out that up to now the Soviets have approved unofficial trade ties with Israel through firms in Austria, Italy, and Switzerland; later they permitted individual deals between Israeli businessmen and Soviet republics.

Export Agreement Signed

TA3007121389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by 'Ido Tal and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] A group of Soviet economists and agricultural experts who recently visited Israel signed an agreement with Israeli Government officials on the export of agricultural products and know-how to the tune of several tens of millions of dollars. The Soviet Union has already transferred the first payments for the exports to Israel.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed last week that Israel exports vast quantities of agricultural products to the Soviet Union and East European countries.

At the same time, the Soviet consular delegation in Israel has notified the Foreign Ministry that the Soviet Union is interested in commercial deals on food items and is looking into the possibility of making barter deals with Israel.

An Israeli Government representative might travel to the Soviet Union soon for talks on the subject.

More on Denials of Dinar Destabilization

TA1008191189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Israel has made it clear to Jordan, through the United States, that Jordanian accusations of Israeli efforts to destabilize the Jordanian dinar are unfounded.

Ehud Ya'ari, our Arab affairs correspondent, reports that King Husayn complained to U.S. leaders that Israel is encouraging residents of the territories to dump the dinar, and that the Bank of Israel is offering low exchange rates for the currency.

Israeli sources stressed that Israel is incapable of influencing the dinar's exchange rate even if it wanted to. The dinar exchange rate has been fixed at 818 fils per dollar for the 4th consecutive day.

Israeli sources estimate that Husayn is accusing Israel of conspiring to weaken the dinar in order to spur the oil-rich Arab states to send Jordan urgently needed financial aid.

Local, Mideast Drug Market, Routes Reviewed

TA1008114689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 89 p 11

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Excerpts] From the beginning of 1989 to the first days of this week, Israeli police have seized some 60 kg of heroin, both in Israel and abroad, as compared with 45 kg seized in 1988 and 45 kg in 1987. The seized drug was to have been distributed in Israel; its estimated retail value is about $40 million. It is safe to assume that the police will seize many more kilograms of heroin dispatched to the Israeli drug market by the end of the year, and that the previous police records will be broken.

The growing quantities of seized heroin has given way to no sense of optimism among the police. On the contrary, the data clearly points to the vast quantities of hard drugs, mainly heroin, introduced into Israel every year. The Israeli police, as well as other police forces in the world, accept as a given that only one-tenth of the total quantity of drugs smuggled into any country is seized. According to the police experts, some 1,500 kg of heroin

will be smuggled into Israel this year for local heroin consumers. This quantity can be broken down into about 20 million heroin doses for consumers and addicts. There is no doubt that this quantity will be completely used up.

The quantities of heroin smuggled into the country in one shipment have grown considerably, and at a steady rate. If in 1984 to 1986, each heroin shipment contained the average of 1 to 4 kg, nowadays some of the smuggled deliveries contain 20 and 30 kg in any one shipment. [passage omitted]

Deputy Commander Rafi Peled, head of the Israel Police Intelligence and Detectives Department, says that most of the heroin introduced into Israel is designated for local consumption. Conversely, most of the hashish passing through and around Israel is destined for Egypt. What worries the police most is that at present, orders are made for the smuggling into Israel of dozens of kilograms in a single shipment. This indicates that the local consumer market is large and is continuing to grow. [passage omitted]

According to a police estimate, Lebanon is today the production site of about 2,000 tons of hashish and 1 ton of heroin a year. Crime groups and families—including respectable and well known ones—which make their living from drugs, promote the Lebanese drug growing, production, and marketing. This field is one of the main and few sources of income at the disposal of the local population. The supply routes and channels of heroin and hashish from northern Lebanon down to and inside the security zone are almost entirely open for a free influx of drugs. Most of the hashish manufactured in Lebanon is designed for Egypt and is either shipped there, or sent by land via Syria-Jordan-Aqaba Gulf, from where it makes its way to the Sinai and Egypt. Only a small portion of the hashish crosses through Israel's border with Lebanon.

Another hashish route is the combination of sea and land. The hashish is transferred by ship and unloaded at sea in the Gaza Strip area. Fishermen bring the hashish to the Strip, from where it makes its way, with the help of local bedouins, through Israel's central Negev, to the Sinai and Egypt. A small part of these hashish deliveries is transferred by Gaza Strip residents and bedouins to Israeli territory, where it makes its way to the Israeli drug market and is sold by sub-distributors.

Most of the heroin arriving in Israel from Europe is "Persian coke," which is smoked by inhaling the vapor that emanates from heroin when it is heated on aluminum foil over a burning wick. Since the beginning of the year, however, there has been a growing shortage of "European" heroin in the drug market, which has instead been flooded by lower-quality heroin from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Heroin imported from Europe has been replaced by imports from Lebanon. The centers of heroin production and marketing in Lebanon are very close; the drug is easily available and accessible, and is much cheaper. The long land border between Israel and Lebanon remains porous despite Israeli army deployment, yielding convenient and simple smuggling routes into Israel. The police readily admit that there is a serious problem in keeping an eye on and controlling the border with Lebanon, seeing that there is constant traffic of workers, businessmen, goods, cargo, vehicles, tourists, UN personnel, soldiers, and relatives in both directions.

Hundreds of Israelis deal in heroin, including Jews, Arabs, and Bedouin from Galilee and the Negev, as well as Arabs from the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, but only a few dozen of them have the means to purchase large quantities of heroin in Lebanon and import it into Israel. It is easy and simple for the Lebanese to meet Israelis and inhabitants of the territories to arrange large drug deals. Seeing that traffic through the border crossing points is in both directions, the encounters are held in either Israel or Lebanon, occasionally in Egypt, Jordan, or Cyprus. Payment is by money transfer through international banks, or in U.S. dollars in cash by innocent couriers who have no criminal record, or as part of legitimate commercial transactions.

The price of heroin in Lebanon is about 25 or 33 percent of its cost in Europe. One kg of heroin may cost up to $12,000 at the Lebanese wholesale level, compared to $35,000 in Europe. The closer it gets to the border with Israel and traverses it, and as more go-betweens join the marketing chain, the price rises up to $20,000 or sometimes even higher. The distribution networks send the heroin to minor distributors, who at any given time may have in their possession from a few hundred grams to 1 or 2 kg of heroin which they transfer to the drug retailers. A major heroin importer selling the heroin by the kilogram to sub-distributors usually makes 100 percent profit on every kilogram. [passage omitted]

Middle East TV Operations Reviewed

TA1108105989 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (SHEL SHABAT Supplement) in Hebrew 11 Aug 89 pp 4, 5, 6

[Report by No'omi Levitzky]

[Summary] "The anchors, reporters, directors, producers, and even technicians all appear on the screen under false names. The post office box number in Nicosia, Cyprus, is a cover. The truth is that the Lebanese television station better known as Middle East Television, Channel 12, produces and broadcasts its daily newscast from Jerusalem. Yes, that is true. The big secret lies ensconced in millionaire Leon Tamman's Habira Studios, adjacent to the northern annex of Jerusalem's Bineyeney Ha'uma. Here, in a mobile-home-like structure housing offices, separated from the main building, some 20 employees—Lebanese and American—are busy preparing two newscasts—one in Arabic

and the other one in English—five times a week. Daytime work is usually done behind closed doors, although through intimate and constant telephone contacts with the bosses in Virginia Beach, U.S.A."

This "odd group" of people, who "all congregate for compulsory communal prayers usually around lunchtime," become very busy at around 1700. "At precisely the same instant, approximately 250 km north of Jerusalem, in a heavily secured building adjacent to the Civil Administration building in Marj 'Uyun, another crew is getting ready to receive the broadcast. Once again, the team is an American-Lebanese mixture. They too use aliases."

"The broadcast is transmitted here from Jerusalem via a microwave linking the two studios. Now the process is quite simple. High-powered antennas, installed with Israeli assistance on several hilltops nearby, transmit the newscast to Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Israel. The news is broadcast from Jerusalem, but the rest of the programs are relayed to southern Lebanon on cassette from the United States, directly from the headquarters of the station's big boss, fanatic televangelist Pat Robertson, and his CBN network, a religious Christian network and the world's largest cable television network." "Robertson established the Middle East station in order to spread the word in this part of the world."

The station's broadcasts consist of movies, U.S. series, soap operas, and lots of sports. It shows reruns of old "60 Minutes" programs once a week on Sundays. "Interspersed in all these are religious programs," including an animated children's program on biblical and New Testament themes. Also in the programs are "the daily shape up class, courtesy of Jesus—a regular partner to the show. Yet the most famous of the station's religious programs is 'The 700 Club.'"

At the time that the station was originally established by George Otis, "a feverish Christian preacher," with the cooperation of Yoram Hamizrahi, former IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in southern Lebanon, and Major Sa'd Haddad, former South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander, the U.S. State Department "was not overjoyed with it." Hamizrahi recalls that he was "summoned to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv for a conversation on the matter." Avigdor Ben-Gal, then the commander of the Northern Command, supported the station for providing a counterpoint to the "venomous propaganda against Haddad and his men for cooperating with Israel." Otis sent volunteers from his church, and the IDF, said Ben-Gal, "located the site, provided a structure and security, while a communications officer from the Northern Command helped obtain the release of equipment from customs duties."

Later, following pressure from Uri Lubrani, Israeli coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, a news show was added to the programming. Under a veil of secrecy, "initially English-language news was produced and recorded at the Jerusalem studios and delivered to southern Lebanon." Lubrani, however, wanted serious and up-to-date news broadcasting, as did Antoine Lahd, the commander of the SLA.

In producing this news show an office was rented in Beirut, as well as in Cyprus, in order to "coordinate between all the regional stations and serve as an official address." "All this was top secret. No one was to know that the news was produced and broadcast from Habira Studios." The agreement between the director general of the studios and the U.S. company specifically mentioned secrecy. Thus, "when a reporter went to visit the studio in Jerusalem, everyone panicked." Trans-Atlantic phone conversations established clearly that no press is to be allowed.

"The news section currently employs four television crews: In Jerusalem, in the al-Shuf Mountains (Druze followers of Junblatt), in Beirut, and in the security strip in southern Lebanon."

Lubrani and Lahd seem to have different interests where "humanitarian assistance" pledged by the station is concerned. "While Lahd is demanding funds and serious help for his community in the security strip, Lubrani whispers in the Americans' ears that there are also Shiites in southern Lebanon, and that perhaps it would be worthwhile to invest something in that direction, too. Lubrani is happy with small donations, and for the moment what Lubrani says goes, as he permits crossings from Metulla to Lebanon, issues licenses for communications equipment, arranges passage through southern Lebanon crossing points, handles customs issues, and arranges for the handling of telephone problems" even though the Israeli phone company denies any link with the station, as officially it cannot render services outside Israel.

"The IDF maintains particularly tight links with the station's southern Lebanese staff. The communications unit provides it with a schedule of all Civil Administration events, and the crews tape and broadcast them. The unit also provides transportation for the TV crews to areas in which military events take place." Their footage undergoes no censorship. As Chief Censor Brigadier General Yitzhaq Shani says: "Material emanating from outside Israeli territory, which is not broadcast from Israel, is totally outside our jurisdiction." Thus, Middle East Television "purports" to broadcast from outside Israel through "a special trick." "Although the news is edited, produced, and broadcast directly from Jerusalem, the material from southern Lebanon is edited in the Marj 'Uyun station. It is injected live straight into the newscasts." This saves the local station director a lot of time, money, and trouble.

The price for this freedom is the use of the euphemistic term of "a little south of border" for Metulla. The station likewise "does not overdo it in reporting on the intifadah [uprising]."

Joint List for Histadrut Elections Set Up

TA0608113589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 89 p 8

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Leaders of the three main Jewish/Arab parties—the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH), the Progressive List for Peace and 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party—agreed in Shefar'am on Friday to set up a joint list for the Histadrut elections. The intervention of Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, also chairman of the National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Councils, overcame earlier friction. HADASH spokesman 'Uzi Burstein said the move could lead to future cooperation.

Settlement Population Increases by 10 Percent

TA0708155789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip had some 66,000 residents last year. According to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, it appears that the Jewish population there increased by 10.3 percent last year compared to the preceding year.

Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein points out that according to another figure in the survey, 45 percent of the country's inhabitants live in 11 large cities, while 9 percent live in 25 development towns. The population of kibbutzim dropped by 1,000 people last year.

General Strike Marks 20 Months of Uprising

TA0908054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] A general strike is under way in the territories, marking 20 months of the uprising. Despite the strike, a number of workers left for their jobs in Israel.

Our correspondent reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip imposed curfews on the Khan Yunus, al-Burayj, and Jabalyah refugee camps.

Leaflet Alleges Embezzlement of Intifadah Money

TA0808083189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A leaflet distributed last night in Ramallah and Nabulus accuses Palestinian notables of embezzling money earmarked for the intifadah [uprising]. The leaflet is signed by a group calling itself the "Palestinian Popular Army." It calls on the Fatah conference meeting in Tunis to take legal measures against the embezzlers.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the leaflet mentions the names of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association; 'Izz al-Din al-'Uryan, head of the Red Crescent; and Ibrahim Qarra'in, editor of AL-'AWDAH. The leaflet also mentions the names of PLO members involved in the embezzlement, including Muhammad Milhim and his aide Zu'bi Sa'id.

Our correspondent points out that the leaflet does not note the sum embezzled, but inhabitants of the territories estimate it at $5 million which were sent to finance the intifadah but did not reach their destination.

Ibn-Shakir Returns From Kuwait, Qatar Visits

JN0908165089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir returned to Amman this evening following a brief working visit to Kuwait and Qatar during which he conveyed two written messages from His Majesty King Husayn to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait; and to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. The messages deal with the close brotherly relations between Jordan and the two sisterly countries. They also deal with consolidating Arab solidarity and joint Arab action to confront the various challenges facing the region and the Arab nation.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned along with the prime minister. [passage omitted]

GCC To Help National Economy

JN1008165889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir has submitted a report to His Majesty King Husayn on his recent visits to the fraternal states of Kuwait and Qatar.

His Majesty King Husayn voiced satisfaction over the positive outcome of the talks held by the prime minister in both Kuwait and Qatar. The prime minister conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the greetings of his brothers His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait; and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, their appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn, and their support for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency, the prime minister expressed his and the Jordanian Government's thanks for the fraternal spirit which permeated his talks with the brother officials in both states, for their full understanding of the nature of the economic phase through which Jordan is going, and also for the eagerness of the brothers to support Jordan and help it overcome the economic hardships confronting it.

The prime minister added: We held extensive talks on the economic policy being pursued by the Jordanian Government to tackle the situation. The brother officials in Kuwait and Qatar demonstrated their understanding and appreciation of Jordan's serious efforts in this regard.

The prime minister went on to say: As a result of these visits, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states will take measures designed to support Jordan's economic march and enhance its ability to overcome the current, problematic economic circumstances.

Columnist on Exchange Rate, 'Implicit Subsidies'

JN0608082889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Aug 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "Central Bank Half-Floats Dinar"]

[Text] For two months now, the Central Bank has given the fixed exchange rate of the dinar a try. But the results were negative. Foreign exchange earners were compelled to turn to the black-market because of 35 per cent difference between the market rate and the official fixed rate. The Central Bank finally got the message and did not waste more time. As of Aug. 1, the dinar was again floated to find its right level which can clear the market without causing acute shortages. The commercial banks were formally allowed to quote market prices for their incoming and outgoing transfers which most of them were doing any way, but under cover.

The Central Bank singled out a short list of commodities to receive favoured treatment, i.e., the official rate, which currently represents a 36 per cent discount. The short list included basic foodstuffs, certain agricultural inputs and the expenses of Jordanian students abroad. Pressures may cause the list to grow and get longer down the road. The margin on the other hand, may become wider and more costly.

In effect this step meant that the dinar is floating as far as 80 per cent of the market is concerned, and is fixed and subsidised by 36 per cent for the balance of the market. It also means that the decision of what to subsidise, and to what extent, is left to the Central Bank instead of the competent authorities at the Ministries of Finance and Supplies.

It is of course expected that commercial banks will not finance the importation of the favoured commodities, because they are not in the business of losing money. So it will be left to the Central Bank to come up with the cheap foreign exchange estimated to range around $50 million a month.

The capacity of the Central Bank to provide this size of money is dependent on receiving substantial amounts of Arab aid. But even in that case the Ministry of Finance may not be willing to swallow the bullet and finance the sizeable loss of more than JD [Jordanisn dinars] 12 million a month in the form of implicity subsidy to the importers of the favoured commodities.

However, drawing on past experience, it is conceivable to envisage such a possibility, because the Treasury was always in the business of losing money. The question is whether the IMF will also swallow the new implicit subsidy of around JD 150 million a year, to be added to the deficit already running at around 23 per cent of gross national product. if that happened, off-budget subsidy will be more than double the explicit subsidy tolerated in the budget.

One may wonder whether it is reasonable or advisable at this time to invent and introduce new subsidies, as the action of the Central Bank inevitably means. We know for sure that we must do our best to minimise subsidies in order to reduce financial deficit. It will be surprising to introduce such massive subsidy which no one asked for, and then worry about its phasing out or removal in the future. In that case we may be inviting trouble.

The Central Bank was realistic and daring when it floated the dinar, as long as it is not able to support the fixed rate. But, is it advisable to experiment with a double exchange rate system and the distortions that go along with it, together with a prohibitive price to the Treasury of that magnitude? The answer is no, but the government may have different views.

Economic and monetary policies should not be half-hearted. If we are convinced of floating the dinar, let it be a full and real floating, whereby the Central Bank can and should intervene, not by fixing rates and promoting black market, nor by ordering the banks not to exceed a ceiling, but by influencing supply and demand as a regulator and major player in the market.

Dinar Transfers From UAE Reportedly Drop

JN2907154389 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Jul 89 p 2

[By 'Ali Lashin]

[Text] Banking sources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have said that the recent drop in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the UAE dirham has greatly influenced the level of transfers by the Jordanian community working in the Gulf to Jordan through banks and official channels.

These sources said that transfers in the Jordanian dinar to Jordan are now limited to transfers by individuals to their families and payments of necessary obligations. Transfers of savings have been reduced sharply and are now made in the dollar instead of the dinar, the sources said.

These sources asserted that the change from the dinar to the dollar is temporary until the position of the dinar becomes clearer and its exchange rate is stabilized.

The sources pointed out that Jordanians have not ceased to transfer their savings to Jordan, but they make the transfers now in dollars instead of dinars. This will also benefit the Jordanian economy because it will support Jordan's hard currency revenues.

It is worth mentioning that the dinar's exchange rate for transfers through the banks yesterday reached 4 dirhams 88 fils, while it was sold in cash by moneychangers for 4 dirhams 55 fils, with a large difference of 33 fils.

Recently, the dinar's exchange rate against the dirham also witnessed a sharp drop. In early June, the dinar was exchanged by moneychangers for 6 dirhams 20 fils, while in the beginning of the year it stood at 7 dirhams.

Ports Official on Tariff Rates, Iraqi Oil Exports

JN0508100089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 25

[Excerpt] Al-'Aqabah—'Id al-Fayiz, director general of the Ports Corporation, has stated that despite the recommendation of the IMF's Middle East section committee of experts—which visited the port of al-'Aqabah recently—to raise the current loading and unloading tariff rates at al-'Aqabah port, the corporation continues to charge its old tariff rates even though they are among the lowest in the Middle East.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Al-Fayiz noted that the insistence on maintaining these rates stems from the port's strategic importance, which is used to extend services to various sisterly Arab states.

Al-Fayiz added: The port of al-'Aqabah's importance to the Arab brothers transcends the issue of loading and unloading and takes on a pan-Arab role. This is especially true in the case of fraternal Iraq, because 90 percent of the platforms and port resources have been and are still being used for transporting various commodities to Iraq, as they were particularly during its just war with Iran.

On the current port operations to serve fraternal Iraq following Iraq's agreements with other ports in the region to ship certain oil byproducts in addition to using Iraqi ports for shipping crude earlier this year, al-Fayiz said: In view of the end of the Gulf war, fraternal Iraq has repaired al-Bakr and Khawr al-'Amiq ports in the Arabian Gulf and the Iraqi crude exports from al-'Aqabah ceased on 1 January 1989.

Al-Fayiz added: However, we hope that the Iraqi brothers will reconsider their decision to stop exporting oil byproducts through al-'Aqabah as of 2 July 1989 because of this decision's negative effect on the ports operations, given the fact that we built a special platform to export Iraqi oil byproducts at the cost of $5 million.

Al-Fayiz also hoped that fraternal Iraq would not reduce the volume of its imports via al-'Aqabah especially since these imports have dropped by 8 percent since the beginning of this year. [passage omitted]

Air Ticket Prices Increased by 20 Percent

JN0208072489 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 1 Aug (PETRA)—The competent authorities have decided to increase by 20 percent the prices of air tickets sold by all airline companies operating in Jordan as of 7 August.

A responsible source in Jordan said this decision came at the recommendation of the representatives of airline companies in Jordan, in line with the International Air Transport Association, IATA, regulations, in light of the low price of air tickets in Jordan compared with prices outside Jordan, and to put an end to illegal speculations and the purchase of tickets in Jordan for travellers residing outside the country.

Al-Majali Approves News Agency Restructuring

JN3007102689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Information and Culture Minister Nasuh al-Majali has approved the administrative regulations and new organisational structure of the Jordan news agency, PETRA, which has been drawn up in cooperation with experts from the Civil Service Commission.

According to the new structure, which will be implemented as of August, the agency will be divided into four departments: reporters, editors, technical affairs and administrative and financial affairs.

The reporters department includes reporters, correspondents, information, photography, film-development and archives, while the editors department will include local, Arab and international editing, and follow up.

According to the administrative regulations a new committee, named the Planning and Coordination Committee, headed by the PETRA director general, will be formed. The committee groups the assistant director and the department heads.

The new committee will be entrusted with drawing up the general guidelines of the agency's policy, the agency's plans and will follow up on their implementation.

It will also work towards achieving uniformity and coordination among the various departments. It will define methods of cooperation with the various government departments and will discuss the agency's annual budget, in addition to all technical and administrative issues. The agency will also deal with any problems obstructing its work.

The administrative regulations empowered the director general to create or integrate or cancel any of the agency's departments or divisions and to take whatever decisions he may deem fit for implementing the provisions of such regulations.

Under the new authorities vested in him, the agency's director general 'Ali al-Safadi Friday formed an editorial broad under his chairmanship.

New Governors Appointed in Irbid, Al-Tafilah

JN3107085889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sunday transferred Irbid and al-Tafilah governors Akram al-Nasir and 'Arif Irshid respectively to the ministry and appointing Jawdat al-Subul and Khalaf Maharimah, both governors at the Interior Ministry, as governors of Irbid and al-Tafliah governorates.

200 Grams of Heroin Found in Smuggler's Stomach

JN2007120989 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 89 pp 1, 17

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] In the first instance of its kind in Jordan, the Drugs and Forgery Department in cooperation with the al-Bashir government hospital has uncovered a unique smuggling operation by a man who lost his life in the process. Colonel Ghalib al-Zu'bi, head of the Drugs and Forgery Department, told AL-DUSTUR that A.M.M., a 25-year-old Egyptian, arrived in Jordan from an Arab state on his way to Egypt. On 12 July, he lost consciousness and was transferred to al-Bashir Hospital where his case was registered as poisoning.

After a blood test, it was found that the poisoning resulted from a drug overdose. The man died the day before yesterday [17 July].

Al-Zu'bi noted that by coordination between the department and the hospital and after an autopsy had been performed, it was found that the dead man's stomach contained four plastic cylinders each measuring 7 cm in length and 3 cm in diameter and tightly sealed with an adhesive material. It was also found that two cylinders were cut open in his stomach, causing his body to absorb the material that led to his unconsciousness and subsequent death.

Al-Zu'bi noted that tests have proved that the material contained in the cylinders was heroin and that the direct cause of his death was the absorption of a great amount of this material.

Answerig a question, al-Zu'bi said that the quantity of the drug was 200 grams.

Red Crescent Hospital Welcomes Intifadah Wounded

JN0708103289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 89 p 22

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Dr Ahmad Abu-Qurah, chairman of the Jordan Red Crescent Society, has welcomed admitting those wounded in the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] into the Red Crescent Hospital in Amman, where they will receive treatment free of charge.

Dr Abu-Qurah urged all national Jordanian institutions to urgently help and treat those wounded in the valiant intifadah.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, the chairman of the Jordan Red Crescent Society added that a large number of people, amounting to a daily average of 88, are wounded in the course of the intifadah. He said this number could not be absorbed by the Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Israel Abducted 'Ubayd 'To Forestall PLO Plan'

JN1008125589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH today charged that Israel planned the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd after the Israeli intelligence services learned of a Palestinian effort in coordination with Washington to obtain the freedom of the hostages. The Israeli action was taken to forestall a PLO plan that would have allowed 'Arafat to be received at the White House.

AL-SHIRA' Says Hostages Moved in Buses

NC1008141089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1358 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Citing non-Arab sources, AL-SHIRA' magazine has revealed that a group of veiled women armed with machineguns have moved the Western hostages at night to more secure places in West Beirut and its southern suburb. It added that the hostages were moved in mid-sized buses, which have the necessary equipment and curtained windows.

'Awn Claims Hostages in Suburb, Al-Biqa'

NC1008190089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1850 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that the death of innocent civilians is part of the price that must be paid for liberation and freedom. Gen 'Awn expressed his belief that the Western hostages are now held in two places: the southern suburb and al-Biqa'.

Syrian Forces Evacuate Positions 8 Aug

NC0808173289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY reports that the Syrian occupation forces evacuated their positions and a roadblock in al-Basta al-Fawqa before noon today and used the Fathallah Barracks as a new assembly point for their soldiers following a concentrated shelling of that area. The agency said the Syrians removed all their vehicles from the streets and took them to a parking lot near the Fathallah Barracks.

According to information from al-Biqa', the agency said that the Syrian military police toured Syrian positions in Shtawrah, Ta'nayil, Sa'dnayil, and Riyaq 2 days ago, asking their personnel to evacuate their positions to elude shelling. The agency added that the Syrians moved a 130-mm artillery emplacement from 'Aynturah in al-Matn to inside the town after it was hit last Sunday night.

VOL on 'Wide-Scale Flare-Up' in Fighting

NC1008180089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] There was a wide-scale flare-up of fighting today following a relative respite over 3 days. For over 9 hours today the Eastern areas from Southern al-Matn to Kasrawan were the targets of Syrian artillery and rocket launchers, which bombarded over 70 towns and villages and caused a large number of casualties which security quarters could not specify accurately because of the intensity of the shelling.

However, an initial count indicates that 12 people have been killed and over 100 wounded, including 7 dead and over 54 wounded in the eastern areas.

Lebanese Army artillery shelled the aggressive Syrian artillery and rocket emplacements in West Beirut, the mountain, upper al-Matn, and Qabb Ilyas in central al-Biqa'. The Army destroyed a number of Syrian emplacements and positions.

The Syrian-initiated shelling, which between 1030 and 1530 concentrated on southern al-Matn, specifically targeted the National Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah and the Presidential Palace in B'abda with 240-mm artillery.

At approximately 1630, Syrian guns and launchers began a new round of destruction, targeting al-Hadath, al-Fayyadiyah, B'abda, al-Hazimiyah, Bikfayya, al-Ashrafiyah, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and Kasrawan. The Syrians used 240-mm and 180-mm shells to shell the Presidential Palace until 1700. At approximately 1600, a shell fell near the residence of the U.S. ambassador in al-Yarzah. Between 1415 and 1430 violent clashes occurred on the lines of the Old Sidon Road, al-Tayyunah, Shatila, the Museum, al-Barbir, Ra's al-Nab', and the Primo.

French Envoy's Residence Hit

NC1008195389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Shells are illuminating the eastern areas. They have been falling for over 11 hours, sowing fear and destruction and inflicting further casualties.

From southern al-Matn to northern al-Matn to al-Ashrafiyah to Kasrawan, the shelling is the master of the situation. The Lebanese are in the shelters and the lower stories of buildings.

As a result of the Syrian shelling of the al-Yarzah area, the residence of French Ambassador Rene Ala was hit by three shells, which fell in the courtyard and damaged a fuel tank.

The Lebanese Army is accurately and appropriately answering the sources of the aggressive Syrian fire to silence them. It has shelled the Syrian positions in

Ksarah, Jalalah, Maksi, Dayr Zannun, Ta'nayil, Majdadlun, Tall 'Amarah, Riyaq, al-Aba' al-Bid, Turbul, Shtawrah, Hazzirta,'Aynturah, al-Mughaythah, Kafr Silwan, 'Uyun al- Rihban, 'Aramun, B'aqlin, 'Ayn Zhalta, and Buq'ata.

VOM Notes Attacks

NC1008195989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The areas of West Beirut, the mountain, the southern suburb and al-Biqa' are still coming under indiscriminate fire. After 2100, the attacks were intensified against the areas of al-Ramlah al-Bayda', al-Mazra'ah, the Kuwaiti Embassy and the Arab University. A number of fires have broken out in the areas of al-Ramlah al-Bayda' and Spinneys.

The western coastal area came under intermittent artillery fire a short while ago. Meanwhile, the areas of al-Shuwayfat and Dayr Qubil are still coming under similar attacks.

The axis of Dahr al-Wahsh also came under mortar fire, and the areas of 'Alayh, Shuwayt, and Duhur al-'Ibadiyah were the targets of indiscriminate fire after 2100.

In another development, attacks have been renewed against the airport road and Bi'r Hasan. Fires are still raging in certain areas in West Beirut, particularly Spinneys.

27 Killed, 125 Wounded

NC1108065289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The preliminary toll from 'Awn's shelling of one-third of Lebanon has been set at 27 dead and 125 wounded. The malicious shelling caused damage in the capital and the suburb, particularly the areas of 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Jal al-Bahr, Ra's Bayrut, the Spinneys, al-Ramlah al-Bayda', al-Mazra'ah, 'A'ishah Bakkar, Wadi Abu-Jamil, al-Janah, al-Barbir, Qasqas, al- Tayyunah, the airport traffic circle, the airport road, Burj al-Barajinah neighborhoods, and al-Ruways. [passage omitted]

Shelling of Eastern Areas Resumes

NC1108104889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Syrian artillery emplacements resumed their treacherous acts of aggression as of 1105 today when a heavy-caliber shell was fired at al-Hadath, followed by a second shell 15 minutes later.

Afterward, shells began to fall on the areas of al-Hadath, B'abda, al-Hazimiyah, and the defense ministry locality in al-Yarzah at the rate of one shell every 7 minutes. The shelling of B'abda Palace, the ministry of defense, al-Hazimiyah, and al-Hadath continued as this report was being prepared.

The Lebanese Army is still exercising self-control and refraining from responding to the Syrian attacks. [passage omitted]

Al-Tufayli Denies Connection With Hostages

NC1108080589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has denied any Hizballah connection with the abduction of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

In an interview with AL-SHIRA' magazine, he asserted that Hizballah rules out any negotiations on or discussion of the issue of prisoners with Israel. He said: They have no prisoners [as heard] and we have none. Our release of any Israeli prisoner is out of question. We rule out any discussion of this matter regardless of whether or not the hostage issue is resolved.

Charge in Beirut, PNSF Examine 'Uprising' Events

LD1008092689 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 10, IRNA—Latest development in the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] were discussed at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut Thursday. The discussion included Iran's charge d'affaires Hoseyn Niknam and members of the National Salvation Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The meeting coincided with the beginning of the 21st month of the uprising.

The two sides stressed importance of resistance and confrontation against conspiracies hatched by imperialists and Zionists. They also denounced Iraqi support for the Zionist-backed factions in Lebanon.

Junblatt Criticizes Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat, USSR

NC1008111489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has expressed the view that Beirut will face a fate similar to that of Stalingrad, because its future is very gloomy. He said that he expects Beirut to disappear.

In an interview with AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper, Minister Junblatt criticized Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who spends $100 million to celebrate the

1 September Revolution but refuses to assist the nationalist movement. He also criticized Yasir 'Arafat, who stands on the side of General Michel 'Awn, and the Soviet Union for not providing assistance to the nationalist forces.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Situation

NC1008110689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Following a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today, Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha was asked: The situation in Lebanon is experiencing an extremely serious stage. A Soviet position on the developments in the situation was issued a few hours ago. How do you view the situation?

He replied: I have made more than one statement in the past few days. I said that the situation in Lebanon is very delicate and even serious, and demands assiduous efforts at the Lebanese level, the Arab level through the tripartite committee, and the intentional level through support by the big powers for the Arab efforts. We are still convinced that the committee is the best way to remove the obstacles to achieving a political solution in this country.

He was then asked: In your opinion, as a representative of the Soviet Union, how can we emerge from this situation?

He replied: Through the resumption of intensive diplomatic activity by diplomatic channels and contacts with the Lebanese parties, particularly through the tripartite committee.

He was then asked: The recent Soviet statement said that the Soviet Union is conducting contacts through you with all the parties. Is there anything specific on which you are focusing in these contacts?

He replied: The statement mentioned the contacts with His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and General 'Awn in order to explain Soviet activity under current circumstances to the Soviet public. There is no particular initiative. The statement only underlines the fact that the Soviet Union is in contact with the political parties in Lebanon and the regional parties regarding the Lebanese situation.

Fatah, PFLP-GC Congratulate Hizballah on Attack

NC1108072989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Hizballah has received a call from the leadership of the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council congratulating Hizballah on the successful martyrdom operation carried out by the blessed martyr Shaykh Burru [suicide car bomb attack on Israeli convoy]. The Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council expressed pride in the operation and asserted that jihad is the only language the Zionist enemey understands.

Hizballah has also received a ranking delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], which offered their congratulations on the successful operation. The delegation conveyed to the Hizballah command a congratulatory cable from PFLP-GC Secretary General Brother Ahmad Jibril, in which he emphasized that the mujahidin fear neither the U.S. fleets nor Zionist operations of piracy, which will not dissuade them from continuing their jihad for the sake of God. He said the operation was carried out to show the whole world that the only option is the armed jihad, which is the language understood by the forces of arrogance supported by the United States and Arab reactionaryism.

PSP Refutes 'Awn, Palestinian Claims

NC1008184389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], the nationalist powers, and the popular committees in Iqlim al-Kharrub have issued a statement which said:

Once again, General Michel 'Awn, the engineer of the destructive liberation war, comes up with a statement which came as no surprise to the sons of the Arab, progressive, and nationalist Iqlim al-Kharrub. In that statement, 'Awn accuses leader Walid Junblatt and the PSP of expelling the Sunni inhabitants of the region.

It is no coincidence that this accusation is levelled during news conferences and in statements by those who presented the Palestinian rifle to Michel 'Awn and his military gang to destroy the nationalist and Islamic areas, particularly the Sunni areas, including the camps of the Arab Palestinian people in Beirut. Some Palestinians in turn accused the PSP of evacuating Palestinian families from the coastal area.

The truth is that the PSP security police arrested certain suspect and devious elements who had been disturbing the social and political balance in the region through dealing in narcotics and opening dens of vice which offend other Palestinian and Lebanese inhabitants. Furthermore, the evacuation occurred while implementing the mountain civil administration and popular committees' plan to reorganize housing zones in the coastal area in particular, and Iqlim al-Kharrub in general, in view of the increasing numbers of migrants arriving from Beirut and the Palestinian camps.

The evacuation was implemented with full coordination among the PSP, the nationalist parties, the Palestinian organizations, and the Arab Syrian forces stationed along the coastal road.

The statement adds: We had expected the promoters of these groundless rumors to denounce 'Awn's attacks against the Sunni residential areas in West Beirut and the Palestinian camps. We trust that the PSP, the nationalist powers, and the popular committees interpret the incitement attempted by 'Awn and Yasir 'Arafat's group as a preparatory step for a political, and perhaps military attack against the Palestinian and Lebanese inhabitants of Iqlim al-Kharrub, whose only affiliation is national and pan-Arab.

According to the statement, this kind of attack is similar to that which 'Awn and the reactionist powers had earlier launched against nationalist Beirut, the suburb, and the mountain .

The statement concludes that the sons of Iqlim al-Kharrub, regardless of their orientations, know very well who has, and still is defending them in the most difficult situations. They renew their pledge of allegiance to leader Walid Junblatt and reiterate their determination to fight the new crisis, which is part of the Zionist crusader scheme.

East Beirut Sources on Missing Iranians Issue

PM0808105689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sources in East Beirut: No Information About Three Iranians"]

[Text] Sources in East Beirut have said that Iran's return to the question of the disappearance of three Iranian nationals during the the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 is designed to complicate negotiations on the hostages.

The sources pointed out that the issue was raised in the past by Western governments during the term of former President Amin al-Jumayyil, who at the time instructed the security bodies to investigate the fate of the three Iranians. The sources added that Al-Jumayyil informed Western quarters that official bodies found no traces whatsoever of the Iranians in question, who were not held by any official body.

The sources said that the present leadership of the "Lebanese Forces" [LF] considers that it has absolutely nothing to do with the problem of the Iranians that Tehran is talking about.

In the past, LF sources confirmed that when Dr Samir Ja'ja' assumed the LF leadership on 15 January 1986 the LF had no Iranian detainees, and its organs found nothing related to them.

An LF source was quoted recently as saying that the present leadership knew nothing about the fate of the Iranian diplomats, and if Tehran really thinks that they were intercepted in the eastern areas, then it must address the question to Elie Hubayqah, who is now in Damascus and who was at that time in charge of the LF's security organ.

Tougher Security Measures Enforced in South

TA1108074589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] instruction that any moving vehicle in the security zone must have at least one other passenger beside the driver was initiated after last October's car bomb attack. Yesterday security forces informed residents of southern Lebanon that they will confiscate the cars of anyone failing to heed the order.

That was only one of the security measures being taken in southern Lebanon since the car bomb attack on Wednesday. All the traffic axes in the northern edge of the security zone will be closed at least until Sunday. The policy of permitting refugees from the Beirut battle zones to enter southern Lebanon is being reconsidered. The IDF is also investigating whether the Shiite terrorist, and those who aided him, did not exploit the permission given to the refugees to enter the security zone, in order infiltrate the explosives into the area.

Velayati To Discuss Hostages on 14 Aug Visit

JN1008202789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] I have learned that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Damascus on Monday acquires special importance and is expected to bring about a qualitative step forward in the two countries' relations.

The agenda of the talks between the Iranian minister and the Syrian leaders comprises a discussion of a comprehensive promotion of relations between Syria and Iran.

It is noted that this is the first visit by a ranking Iranian official to Syria following the Arab tripartite committee's announcement that its efforts have reached a deadend with respect to attaining a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The question of the release of the Western hostages who are held captive in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups will be among the topics that will be discussed during Velayati's visit to Syria.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Walid Junblatt

JN1008184489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received this evening Walid Junblatt, head of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, and minister of public works, transport, and tourism. They talked about Lebanese developments.

Al-Ahmar Addresses Students on Lebanon Policy

JN1008152689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met last night with university students receiving military training at the al-Sharif al-Idrisi camp in Damascus. [passage omitted]

In his remarks to the students, Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed developments in the Arab arena. He affirmed Syria's firm position confronting the imperialist-Zionist schemes in the region and its valiant confrontation of all plots against the Arab nation, whether these plots are taking place in Lebanon, or aimed at the central cause [the Palestine question] or in the the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and adherence to the Palestine question, which is considered the crux of the conflict. He affirmed that this conflict must be decided through the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil.

He said that the constants of our struggle stem from our pan-Arab commitment and firm faith in the justice of our cause and our right to defend it despite all the methods being employed by U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and its agents in the region to undermine our people's steadfastness and to fragment the Arab homeland.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed that the fascist practices of the regime of the gladiator of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, and his unlimited support for the Zionized 'Awn clique, complement the Israeli role in a joint alliance in the Arab region. He affirmed that the developments in Lebanon are a link in the chain of Zionist-imperialist plots to divide Lebanon, obliterate its Arab identity, and turn it into an Israeli protectorate.

Comrade al-Ahmar referred to Syria's salvational role in Lebanon and its support for the Lebanese Arab brothers to end their tragedy. He affirmed that Syria's efforts to thwart the Zionist scheme stem from its national and pan-Arab responsibility toward leading the Arab struggle and consolidating the pan-Arab position.

He said this was embodied by the effective and distinguished presence of Comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad in the emergency Arab summit conference in Casablanca, especially his explanation of Syria's pan-Arab position on fraternal Lebanon.

Comrade al-Ahmar condemned the fascist Iraqi regime's alliance with agent 'Awn and his treasonous clique to partition Lebanon and immerse it in destruction in order to further the Israeli scheme to impose imperialist hegemony over the Arab region. He added that in all circumstances, Syria will continue to be concerned about the unity and independence of Lebanon, and with helping Lebanese efforts toward accord through dialogue, and supporting this people's resistance against the Zionist occupation and the isolationist forces which want to turn Lebanon into an Israeli-U.S. protectorate. He said Syria will not give in to threats, pressure, or extortion and will continue to bear its pan-Arab responsibilities toward the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and on all pan-Arab issues. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabian Envoy's 'Secret' Visit Reported

JN1008155489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 10 Aug 89

[From "With the Midday Events" feature]

[Excerpts] An informed source said today that a Saudi Arabian envoy arrived in Damascus on Sunday [6 August] and stayed there for 48 hours on a mission related to the outcome of the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee tasked with finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The presence of this envoy in Damascus was shrouded in complete secrecy. We have with us now Yitzhaq Halevi, the Middle East affairs editor.

[Begin recording] [Qasim Mahamid] Yitzhaq, good afternoon.

[Yitzhaq Halevi] Good afternoon Qasim. Yes, the informed source who disclosed the arrival of the Saudi Arabian envoy in Damascus 5 days ago and his departure 48-hours later, indicated that the Saudi envoy—whose identity has not been revealed and whose presence and contacts were shrouded in total secrecy—might return to the Syrian capital soon. However, the source revealed nothing about this envoy's mission or what he discussed in Damascus. It should be noted that a crisis involving Syria and the Arab tripartite committee, composed of the king of Saudi Arabia, the king of Morocco, and the Algerian president, has become public knowledge after the committee issued a report on 1 August stating that its efforts had reached a deadlock due to differences with the Syrian authorities on Lebanon's sovereignty and the issue of Syrian-Lebanese ties. For its part, Syria cast doubt on the objectivity of the report, saying that it contains unsound judgments caused by the lack of an objective and honest assessment of the positions of the parties concerned with resolving the crisis. As we all know, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' voiced deep regret in a message sent to the foreign ministers [of the Arab states represented in the Arab tripartite committee] on Saturday [5 August], because the Arab committee assessed stands that conflict with the letter and spirit of the Casablanca Arab summit resolution. [sentence as heard]

[Qasim Mahamid] Thanks, Yitzhaq Halevi, for this talk. [end recording]

Al-Asad Receives Invitation To Visit Pakistan

JN1008155889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 10 Aug (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received here today Pakistan's ambassador in Damascus Syed Azmat Hassan who gave him a letter from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad inviting him to visit Pakistan.

PDRY Foreign Minister Confers With Al-Shar'

JN0808193089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—Faruq al-Shar', Syrian minister of foreign affairs, received Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian assistant foreign minister; Mustafa 'Umran, director of the Arab homeland department; and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in various areas. They also discussed various aspects of the Arab situation, especially developments in Lebanon.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0908125489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], left Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', heads of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, ambassador of the PDRY in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Dr al-Dali made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said that the results of his visit were very good and positive. During this visit, the Syrian Arab side and the Democratic Yemeni side exchanged opinions especially in the field of bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in various fields.

He pointed out that discussions centered on all aspects of the Arab situation, particularly developments in the Lebanese arena. He affirmed the need to exert intense Arab efforts to implement the resolutions of the Arab summit on Lebanon and increase Arab and international contacts to guarantee the removal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. He also affirmed the necessity to support the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories.

Chief of Staff Addresses Academy Graduates 5 Aug

JN0608073889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, a new batch of students of the Al-Asad Academy for Military Engineering graduated yesterday. General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputized for his excellency the president in patronizing the ceremony.

Gen al-Shihabi delivered a speech on the occasion. At the beginning of the speech, Gen al-Shihabi conveyed the president's greetings and congratulations to the officer graduates as well as his wishes of success for all.

Gen al-Shihabi spoke about our valiant Armed Forces, which have enjoyed extensive care and attention—which qualified them to participate in the October war and carry out their pan-Arab role in the Lebanese arena. He affirmed that the conspiracy to which Lebanon, its people, and its economic installations are being subjected will be foiled, despite agent 'Awn's insistence on pursuing a military option and regardless of the support

provided to him by the rulers of Baghdad, Tel Aviv, and Washington. He added: Syria will not allow anyone to toy with the security of fraternal Lebanon, as we view this security as part of our security. Also, we will not allow anyone to jeopardize the Arabs' pan-Arab security, as Syria and Lebanon constitute one people residing in two countries, just as leader al-Asad said. The criminal attempts currently being made in Lebanon to dissolve Lebanon's existence and fragment its pan-Arab identity are merely a continuation of the imperialist-Zionist policy which seeks to realize Israel's expansionist objectives in the region at the expense of the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Arab struggle for existence against the enemies of the Arab nation.

In his speech, Gen al-Shihabi also asserted that our people's masses in the occupied homeland have been aware of this conspiracy. That is why they launched their sweeping intifadah [uprising] defying Israel, its terrorism, and the means of killing and destruction available to it, he said. Thus, our people's masses have affirmed to the world that self-defense and defending the homeland are sacred rights and noble pan-Arab and nationalist duties, Gen al-Shihabi added.

Concluding his speech, Gen al-Shihabi asked the officer graduates to embody the values of our party and the traditions of our people as well as the ideals cherished by our dearly beloved leader Hafiz al-Asad, foremost among which are devotion to the homeland, offering sacrifices for the sake of the homeland, and loving martyrdom, which is the peak of all values and the most cherished obligation.

Afterward, Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi who acted as deputy for the commander in chief on the occasion, renewed the pledge to our steadfast masses, to our party, and to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our victorious march, that the army will continue to observe the highest level of preparedness and readiness; and to work honestly, sincerely, and diligently to safeguard the security of the homeland, and to protect its soil from the ambitions of the greedy and the craftiness of the conspirators until our nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism are realized.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Chiefs Participate in Roundtable Program

NC1008200089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1635 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Political roundtable discussion held in Tehran on 10 August by Mohseni, leader of the Harakat-e Eslami; Kheyrkhah, head of the Jamiyat-e Eslami Secretariat of the mujahidin's 7-party alliance; and Mahdavi, member of the Ettefaq-e Eslami leadership council, moderated by unidentified correspondent—Mohseni, Kheyrkhah, and Mahdavi speak in Dari]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Tonight's program is devoted to the Afghanistan problem. I thank you gentlemen for participating in this program, and I want to put the first question to Mr Mohseni. A relatively long time has passed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Some believe that during this period, the developments around Afghanistan have not been rapid and that a profound development has not taken place in this. How do you assess this?

[Mohseni] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. As far as the recent remarks alleging that our jihad is facing a standstill, these are apparently Western propaganda. After the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the Westerners do not show any great interest in propagandizing our jihad. The jihad, according to reports received from inside Afghanistan, is good, thank God. However, there are two other elements which we should not ignore, and these two elements may be about 10 percent responsible for the reduction in the pace of the jihad. One of these elements is group rivalries. Since everyone was sure that the government would fall at the first opportunity, they held back and wanted the other group to act so that their own men would remain safe and sound. The other element is that the government in Afghanistan has started something like political prostitution. It has placed a large quantity of arms at the disposal of some mujahidin and has asked them to stop their operations for some time. It has given these mujahidin great amounts of money and many arms. The government cannot continue this, and I think that during the next few weeks the jihad will return to its past fast pace and, God willing, we are approaching the gates of victory.

[Correspondent] God willing. Mr Kheyrkhah, after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, we witnessed several operations by the Afghan mujahidin against the forces under the Kabul regime's control. These attacks did not succeed for several reasons. One of the views propounded in relation with this is that despite the fact that the mujahidin have the upper hand in guerrilla warfare, they do not have the necessary manpower and arms organization for conventional and extensive wars. What is your opinion on this?

[Kheyrkhah] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. After the withdrawal, after the ousting of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the West has not been showing the same zeal and enthusiasm that it showed in the past and at the time when the Russians were in Afghanistan on the Afghanistan problem. Now it wants to portray the problem as a national problem. But during the presence of the Russian forces, it portrayed the problem as one of the presence of occupation forces in the Islamic country of Afghanistan. We all believe that today, neither the East nor the West want Islamic rule to be established in Afghanistan. Each one is striving to achieve its own objective.

As for the mujahidin's jihad in Afghanistan, this jihad continues with the same force that it did during the presence of the Russian forces in Afghanistan, thank God. The positions continue to be strong. The mujahidin have liberated large parts of cities. These areas are in Konar and Bamiyan Provinces. A large part of Herat and Badghis and other provinces has been liberated and are under the mujahidin's control. There is no presence as such of the regime's forces in these areas, and in some cities this presence does not exist at all.

However, our war with the enemy is an unequal war as far as arms are concerned. Today the puppet regime in Afghanistan has an air force with ultra-modern aircraft—MiG-29's and so on—as well as long-range weapons and Scud missile launchers. They have all these at their disposal. But, concerning these the Muslim Afghan mujahidin do not have an air defense force as such. We see the positions stand strongly, withmore than 1 million mujahid fighting inside Afghanistan alternately, and many millions of refugees standing strongly behind there positions. These are all examples and outcomes of the selflessness and resistance of the Muslim Afghan nation. On why the mujahidin did not achieve immediate victory, this is something else. War has its own problems. We believe that either today or tomorrow the Muslim Afghan mujahidin will achieve final victory in Afghanistan and this is because we primarily rely on God and on the Muslim Afghan nation, and the Muslim Afghan nation is with the Muslim Afghan mujahidin. However, the puppet regime is currently under the aegis of Russian arms and inside Russian tanks and is striving to extend its wretched life for a few more days.

[Correspondent] Of course there is another assessment in relation to this; this is that some of the world powers which have interests in Afghanistan tried, through the direct or indirect provocation of the mujahidin to carry out hasty operations without any programs, to make them think that victory without reliance on these powers is not possible. What is your opinion on this?

[Kheyrkhah] The reality is that the superpowers and intervening powers do not want Islamic rule to be established in Afghanistan and for the Afghan people to

determine their own destinies, and each one of these powers is striving for its own interests. They are trying. But they will not be able to achieve anything. [passage omitted]

But as to why the mujahidin are not achieving victory sooner, this is problem of war. But we believe that sooner or later the Muslim Afghan mujahidin—because the Muslim Afghan nation is with the mujahidin—will emerge victorious, God willing. War has its problems and we do not deny these.

[Correspondent] Mr Mahdavi, as my first question to you, what is the current situation of the mujahidin forces and the Kabul regime's forces in Afghanistan? Generally speaking, what is the array of forces like and what is the total area of Afghanistan that has been liberated until now?

[Mahdavi] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. A large part of Afghanistan has been liberated and is in the hands of the mujahidin. I can say that between 80 to 85 percent has been liberated. The puppet regime and the Russian hireling government have only a small part of the area—only the capital and the provincial centers in its hands. As for the array of forces, the government forces' morale is extremely weak compared to the mujahidin who, despite the lack of modern arms that they should have in front of the enemy, possess extremely high morale and extraordinary faith. God willing, the enemy will soon be done away with, and the mujahidin will emerge victorious.

[Correspondent] What area has been liberated?

[Mahdavi] I said that this area is between about 80 to 85 percent. Only the provincial centers and the capital Kabul are under the control of the hireling government.

[Correspondent] Mr Mohseni, the solution propounded recently by some regional countries for the solution of the Afghanistan problem calls for the formation of a coalition government comprising representatives from people of all the strata in Afghanistan. What is your opinion on this?

[Mohseni] After the formation of the interim government by the Peshawar-based groups, one expected this interim Islamic government to enjoy extensive popular support. The first step was the participation of the Eight-Party Alliance in this government. However, unfortunately until now no agreement has been reached yet, and I think that most of the blame lies on the shoulders of a group of our brothers who are members of the current government and (?supporters) of the Peshawar groups. Most of the blame lies on their shoulders. When this agreement was not reached, the world did not recognize this government. Those who opposed the formation of Islamic rule in Afghanistan found a good pretext too.

Now there are various plans. Everyone accepts a vastly represented rule. But there are differences on the analysis of this. There are several views on this. One view is that of the brothers in Peshawar who interpret a vastly represented government to mean a (?free) Afghan government with extremely limited participation by the Eight-Party Alliance. Another view exists in Kabul and that is that a vastly represented government is interpreted as one in which the Afghan communists cooperate with the mujahidin and with the indifferent forces which were asleep in the West until now. This view calls for the unity of all these forces and to form a government which will be similar to a jungle government where all animals exist. We consider this to be completely harmful for the future of Afghanistan, and we have repeatedly stated that even if one communist minister exists in the cabinet, we will not stop our armed struggle and we will consider negotiations with the government as treachery to the blood shed by the martyrs. Another view is that the future government would be formed of mujahidin, of some elements and individuals that exist in the current Kabul government but who are not communists and do not belong anywhere but who are Muslims yet cooperated with the Kabul government, and of some people who are sitting in the West and are waiting to occupy ministerial seats.

[Correspondent] Mr Kheyrkhah, as you know, months have passed since the formation of the interim government of the Seven-Party Alliance of Afghan mujahidin. Mr Mohseni referred to some of the problems in this government which are possibly the elements for its disintegration. Are there any other problems and reasons for this that you see? If yes, please speak about them briefly.

[Kheyrkhah] One of the dimensions of our revolution is political activities. Political activities have not progressed along with military activities. The muslim Afghan Mujahidin have been able, in the military field, to oust the occupying forces from their territory. However, after the ousting of the Russians we consider the formation of an interim government as a positive step in political activities as far as determining the destiny of the Muslim Afghan nation and assuming the management of the country by the mujahidin are concerned. But there have been shortcomings, of course, and these shortcomings have been in that, first, in the plan for a consultative council which was propounded in Pakistan, the issue of social justice was not taken into consideration. All parties—both weak and strong—were all accepted to one extent. Moreover, the infrastructure of the rule was not extensive, and all the strata of the nation did not participate in it.

As far as the principle of rule is concerned, we confirm that this is the principle wanted by the Afghan people, but there are shortcomings. If these shortcomings are overcome, then it is what the Muslim Afghan nation and all the strata of the Afghan nation want. They want to participate in their own destiny. And after the formation

of a rule with an extensive infrastructure, then preparations should be made for elections. In other words, the interim government is confirmed, but with the overcoming of its shortcomings. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Mohseni, my question is about the other parties in Afghanistan. We have several parties that are within the framework of the Seven-Party Alliance, and several parties that are within the framework of the Eight-Party Alliance. Have there been any thoughts about the parties that are outside these two frameworks? In your opinion, will coordination not increase the strength of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in their struggle against the regime?

[Mohseni] At a time when a basic solution has not yet been found between the Seven-Party and the Eight-Party Alliances, despite the sincere wishes of both sides, and when an obstinacy exists, whose blame—as I previously said—rests on the shoulders of our brothers in Peshawar, when this is the case, then how can we speak about solitary and isolated groups? As for the last part of your question, the answer is obvious. We are carrying out a jihad now. A jihad, like fasting, is not an isolated act but a social act. [passage omitted] It is an Islamic, humanitarian and moral issue. We should all unite, and opportunism and monopolism are extremely harmful to our victory and to the future of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Mr Kheyrkhah, recently the mass media reported that a number of Afghan Mujahidin commanders were murdered by the forces of one of the Seven-Party Alliance groups. Please give our viewers more details and your view on this.

[Kheyrkhah] The tragedy took place in Takhar at a sensitive and historic juncture of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution and at a time when the Muslim Afghan nation was able to oust the occupying forces from their territories and when they tolerated tragedies, homelessness, martyrdoms, and sacrifices and were expecting victory. [passage omitted]

It was at this time that we witnessed the Takhar tragedy and the martyrdom of 38 our dear, brave, and heroic commanders. And this is something that cost the Muslim Afghan nation a great deal, and it was a regrettable incident for the Muslim nations and Islamic movements throughout the world. At a time when all Muslims were expecting the victory of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin, this dastardly attack was carried out. The consequences of this will be grave. Why? Because this will lead to the loss of trust among the strugglers. It will result in a feeling of revenge among our nation. It will tear the half-baked alliance that existed among the Islamic parties, making all of them lose trust in each other, and it will fulfil the predictions of the enemies of the Islamic revolution that Afghanistan will turn into a bloodbath after the withdrawal of the Russian forces. Therefore, in order to prevent such tragedies we advise the Muslim Afghan nation and the Muslim mujahidin to display Islamic tolerance and, God forbid, not give rise to a feeling of revenge in themselves so that they will resort to such acts. We also want the leaders of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin, throughout the entire Islamic revolution, and also the leaders of the interim government to mete out Islamic punishment of the perpetrators of the crime and give a guarantee that such tragedies and crimes, which may disappoint the Muslim Afghan nation and the Islamic ummah, will not take place in the future of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] I want to ask you another question. One of the Seven-Party Alliance leaders stated during this week that if the officers of the current regime's army take the rule in their hands, his party will support these officers if they promise to prepare the grounds for elections within 6 months. What elements led to the propounding of this plan by this party in your opinion?

[Kheyrkhah] There are two issues that should be pondered as far as this plan is concerned. One is that if someone wants to carry out a coup in Afghanistan, he will not reveal details of the coup before it is carried out. Coups are usually carried out secretly, and the enemy is not told that it is to take place. Therefore, this statement in itself shows that there is no plan for a coup and that this is nothing but propaganda.

The second issue is that today we do not know anyone in the higher echelons of the puppet regime and among the high-ranking officers of the puppet regime who is not a communist or dependent. Forming a coalition with these people, or forming a joint government or carrying out a coup with them is rejected by the Muslim Afghan nation. The Muslim Afghan nation and the heroic Afghan mujahidin are not prepared in any way to carry out a joint coup with atheist and communist forces. If there is such a coup, then it will possibly be supported by the Russians. Therefore, we do not know why this plan was propounded by one of the mujahidin and with what trust in which officers he will carry out a coup in Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Mr Mohseni, one of the major issues in Afghanistan is the tribal structure of that country. The view that the enemies of the people of Afghanistan are trying, in view of this very issue—that is, by fanning the flame of tribal differences—to prevent the complete victory of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin, is gaining ground. What steps have been taken in order to prevent such conflicts, or do you intend to take any steps in the future?

[Mohseni] Obviously the world today has turned into a house, into a city where bullies and superpowers want to intervene in the domestic affairs of small nations. It is not only the issue of Afghanistan's tribal structure. We have other things that can prevent our revolution from achieving victory or which can slow the pace of its victory. There are many problems. However, these depend on our own people's decision-making and shrewdness about how we can dam the way for our

enemies and preserve our unity. I think that the only thing that can overcome these problems in Afghanistan, or at least weaken these problems and safeguard our revolution from defeat and guarantee its victory, is the emphasis on the Islamic dignity of our revolution. We have different languages, we have different religions, different parties, and various problems. However, 99 percent of the people are Muslims and are enamoured with Islam, and no political organization can claim that it created the revolution. The truth is that political organizations were forged from among the people and it was the general determination of the people to defend their religion in any way possible. What will guarantee the victory of our revolution and safeguard our national unity and disappoint our enemies will be the emphasis we put on the Islamic dignity of our revolution. If we preserve this dignity of our revolution, then our enemies will be unable to infiltrate among our people, and we will be able live in a fraternal way on the basis of our Islamic commandments.

[Correspondent] Mr Kheyrkhah, if you have anything to state about the need for Shiite and Sunni unity, please do so.

[Kheyrkhah] As far as the unity among all the strata of the Muslim Afghan nation is concerned, in addition to the fact that in one of our religious commandments God calls for unity, our social, patriotic, and national conditions demand that all the strata of the nation stand beside each other. [Passage omitted] We did not have religious problems among our nation in Afghanistan. Good relations, receptions, marriages, and kinship among the two religions always existed. Until today, with God's assistance, a war in the name of religion has not started in Afghanistan. Of course, the superpowers and the enemies of the Islamic revolution tried to propound religious issues in Afghanistan and to divert the war in this direction. However, until today—with God's help and the alertness of the Afghan nation—we have not had a religious war among our brothers. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Mohseni, in view of the developments inside Afghanistan and the regional developments, how do you assess the future course of the Afghanistan problem?

[Mohseni] [passage omitted citing Koranic verse] The course of our jihad and the future of our Afghanistan is not like rainfall, whose result is known. It is something that is contingent on our action and reaction. If we can continue our revolution without dependence on foreign governments and refrain from shortsightedness and opportunism in the domestic field, preserve our Islamic fraternity, and be more clear sighted, then we see the future of our country—both in the moral and clerical aspects and in the material, social, political, and economic aspects—to be very bright. Even if this revolution brought some tragedies for us, it nevertheless took our people a couple of centuries ahead and opened their minds. And we can make correct use of the (?problems) of our revolution on the morn of our victory. It all depends on how we will act.

[Correspondent] Mr Kheyrkhah, the direct talks between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Union ceased after several rounds. This week Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Shevardnadze repeated readiness to carry out talks with all the opposition factions. What is your opinion of this?

[Kheyrkhah] In negotiations with the Russians, the negotiating sides—the Russians and the Muslim Afghan mujahidin—pursue some objectives in these. The objective of the Russians, all of whose efforts are precisely a continuation of the regime's national reconciliation policy and who still continue to support their puppet regime, is to seek a way for the coalition or participation of all forces—the mujahidin and the puppet regime in Afghanistan—and to be able to rule in Afghanistan through their puppet forces or, at least, to guarantee the life of these forces in Afghanistan. This is the Russians' objective.

The objective of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin in these negotiations has been their call that, first of all, the political existence of the Afghan Mujahidin be internationally recognized because until today the Russians and the puppet regime have always portrayed the Mujahdin as insurgents and brigands. However, today the enemy itself confesses to the political existence of the mujahidin. One of the mujahidin's objectives was this recognition internationally and by the enemy.

As for discussing issues pertaining to the destiny of the Muslim Afghan nation—issues such as the type of government, the participation of the puppet forces in the government, or other issues related to the Muslim Afghan nation's destiny—we will not ever give this right to the Russians, and we have nothing to discuss with them on these points.

Our talks with the Russians concern ousting the Russian forces and goodneighborly relations after their withdrawal if the Russians stop their intervention in Afghanistan, end their support for the puppet regime, and stop interfering in Afghanistan's affairs. In this case, we are prepared to have goodneighborly relations with them.

As for war reparations for an Afghanistan that they have turned to rubble, today more than (?two-thirds) of Afghanistan has been turned to rubble and the people's homes, fields, and rivers have been destroyed. The Russians have done this. Moreover, the fate of a large number of our people is not known. We do not know if they are in the prisons in Moscow, Tashkent, or other Russian cities. A large number of our youth and adolescents have been taken by the Russians inside Russia. They are receiving materialistic training. We can discuss these issues with them. We can discuss the exchange of prisoners of war, war reparations, and so on. But as for

the type of government and for determining the Muslim Afghan nation's destiny, we have nothing to discuss with the Russians, and we reject any talks with them on these issues.

[Correspondent] As my last question, please allow me to ask all of you one thing. One of the issues discussed by political and news circles is the expansion of Iranian-Soviet relations and the effects of this on Afghanistan's situation. Hekmatyar has alleged that Iran is interfering in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. What are your views on this?

[Mahdavi] Mr Hekmatyar's remarks are his personal views. We have nothing to say about his personal views. As for what effects Iran's relations with Russia will have on Afghanistan's struggle, people who are acquainted with political issues know that Russia has faced both a political and an economic defeat. Therefore, this proposal to establish contacts—I think—stemmed more from the Russian part, which has suffered a political and economic defeat on the international scene, while the Islamic Republic of Iran—with its purity, stable faith, and clear policy of neither east nor west—continues to stand steadfast. The Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the Russians can have no effects on this. We think that as far as some other issues are concerned—well, the Islamic Republic of Iran was not at war with Russia—therefore, it can have a political, commercial, and trade relationship with it. As for Afghanistan's struggle, we know that the Islamic Republic of Iran's moral support on the basis of its principles continues. Therefore, we do not fear anything; we do not see this to be contrary to the course of our struggle; and, God willing, we expect the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist us more in various aspects, despite its relations with Russia and since its Islamic principle calls for support for the Afghan mujahidin. And it will help, God willing. As for Hekmatyar's remarks that Iran is interfering in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, this is his own personal view. But we do not think that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interfering in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. The Islamic Republic of Iran has supported Afghanistan from the beginning of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution, and we hope that it will extend more support, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr Kheyrkhah, please go ahead.

[Kheyrkhah] As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran Government is concerned, we believe that there are governments in the world today that lack ideology. These governments can be directed to any path. However, the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has directed the Islamic revolution in Iran to victory today and which has been established as an Islamic government in the world, does not allow it to trample on the blood of the Muslim Afghan nation, God forbid, because this government has been formed on the basis of a school of thought and an ideology. Therefore, we do not think that this government will sacrifice its Islamic thoughts for interests. The relations with the Soviet Union and the comings and goings are very normal things. All neighboring countries do this. In other words, today after its victory and if the Russians do not interfere with our domestic affairs, we too can have contacts as neighbors. Therefore, we do not consider the contacts that the Islamic Republic of Iran has or its commercial relations and so on as trampling, God forbid, on Afghanistan's interests. We also do not believe that the support for the Muslim Afghan mujahidin will end; this is because the Islamic Republic of Iran has a clear line and during the history of the armed struggle in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran's views have always reflected the wishes of the mujahidin. We have not seen a behind-the-scenes compromise until today.

But as for Mr Hekmatyar, his remarks were irresponsible because today we need all the Muslims of the world, especially in neighboring countries. We have more than 2 million Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, God forbid, when we utter something, we should also take our nation into consideration. In other words, we should try not to rouse the sentiments of a nation against refugees. Therefore his remarks were irresponsible.

[Correspondent] Mr Mohseni. Can you state your view on this?

[Mohseni] First of all the change that took place and, in other words, the development in the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and economic relations with Russians, stemmed from the change of the Russians' century-old position, not a violation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of its previous positions. Gorbachev retreated in Afghanistan. He also retreated vis-a-vis the West, and he wants to carry out a basic revision of the Soviet Union's century-old policy; this is a wise act. Second, I know (?in detail) of the talks held by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Velayati in Moscow, and I am informed of Mr Velayati's talks in Islamabad with the Pakistani official. I am confident that a specific agreement among Moscow, Islamabad, and Tehran on Afghanistan of which the mujahidin are ignorant has been reached. And the official and repeated position of the Islamic Republic of Iran which was sincerely emphasized a few days ago by its officials is based on strengthening the mujahidin's political and military positions so that we can have the upper hand in the negotiations. They have not interfered, in any way, in our domestic affairs.

I know—and I have reliable reports in hand—that during the burial of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, several politicians of the Kabul regime headed by Prime Minister Keshtmand said while airborne that we are near your borders and want to attend the imam's funeral, that the imam did not belong to Iran only but to all Muslims, and that we too are Muslims and want to come. They thus wanted to exploit the good economic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet

Union. However, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran resisted strongly on the basis of their former positions and replied negatively. So Keshtmand's plane returned.

The Kabul regime has tried, on several other occasions, to establish contacts with Iran in a humiliating way, but the Islamic Republic of Iran has not done so. Basically the nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Islamic system does not tolerate treachery against Islamic revolutions in the world, and until today we have not felt any threat from this direction. We hope that the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the efforts that are being exerted by Pakistan will be to the benefit of our revolution.

[Correspondent] God willing. I thank you for your presence on this program. I thank the dear viewers for their attention, and I bid farewell to them all until next week and our next program. May God bless you.

Widening Rift in Mujahidin Factions Seen
BK1108101789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11 (AFP)—The rift between Afghan mujahidin factions appeared to widen Friday when a top resistance leader rejected another senior leader's support for a coup in Kabul.

'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the rebel government, rejected the idea of taking power through a coup as advocated last week by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, his foreign minister.

"We should not create any impression in the minds of our people that we can only come to power in a clandestine way," Mr. Sayyaf said in a statement carried by the newly created rebel news agency MIDIA, which is controlled by the rebel government based in Pakistan.

"The Afghan jihad (holy war) will continue till the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. We will not accept any government in Afghanistan which would be a product of a military coup d'etat," Mr. Sayyaf said.

Mr. Hekmatyar, the controversial fundamentalist leader of the Hezb-e Eslami rebel faction, had said last week that the mujahidin might back a coup by army officers who did not belong to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the ruling Communist Party.

He said at a press conference on August 5, upon his return to Pakistan from a month inside Afghanistan, that one solution to the present deadlock would be "a coup by non-members of the the PDPA inside the Afghan Army" and an eventual transfer of power to an elected government.

The rejection by Mr. Sayyaf, a member of the Moslem Wahhabi sect like the royal family of his financial backers Saudi Arabia, was seen as a thinly veiled rebuff of Mr. Hekmatyar's position.

The two men are among the most radical fundamentalist Moslem leaders in the seven-party resistance coalition based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The alliance between the two suffered a setback after July 9, when guerrillas loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar killed some 30 men from another faction in an ambush in northeastern Afghanistan.

The incident was widely criticized by mujahidin leaders and by Washington, one of the main backers of the resistance, further isolating Mr. Hekmatyar.

Mr. Sayyaf said the internecine clash was "very unfortunate and a blow to the Afghan jihad."

Kabul To Get MiG-29; Rockets Hit Soviet Compound
BK1108025289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] The Soviet Union will supply the air force of the Kabul regime with the most modern MiG-29 fighter aircraft. Confirming this report, a top military officer said in Kabul yesterday that the agreement has been concluded for the supply of the fighter aircraft which will begin arriving soon.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin have once again carried out fierce rocket and missile attacks on the capital Kabul. According to reports, at least 20 rockets landed inside the city out of which four rockets landed inside the Soviet Embassy compound and six around it. Loss of life or property was not immediately known, but correspondents believe that the attacks caused a heavy loss of life and property.

A Kabul militia commander was killed in a clash between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in Baghlan Province. Another report says the mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime aircraft on Thursday in which 12 prominent personalities on board were killed. But no details were available.

The mujahidin also attacked a frontier brigade in Nangarhar Province and other than inflicting a heavy loss of life and property, destroyed a mechanized division.

Mujahidin Intensify Attacks, Shoot Down Plane
BK1008143289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin have intensified their operations against the Kabul regime forces at various places in Afghanistan. A report from Nangarhar Province says that the mujahidin shot down an aircraft of the Kabul regime, killing 12 people on board. They

also attacked a frontier brigade on Tuesday [8 August], inflicting heavy casualties. An armored military vehicle was destroyed in the Qandahar Province on Monday.

The mujahidin repulsed a Kabul regime forces' attack at Chahar Dehi District of Kabul Province and killed 20 soldiers including officers.

According to another report, the mujahidin killed the Kabul militia commander in Baghlan Province and 29 Kabul regime soldiers during a clash at Tulak District in Ghowr Province.

Rockets Kill 9, Injure 16 in Kabul 10 Aug

BK1008162589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 10 (AFP)—Seven rockets fired by Afghan resistance guerrillas slammed into the Afghan capital Thursday, killing nine people and injuring 16, all of them civilians, eyewitnesses and government spokesmen said.

Eight of those killed and four of the injured were hit at a bus stop near Kabul's airport, eyewitnesses said, adding that six of the dead were members of one family waiting for a bus.

Rocketing of the city has been constant since last Friday, and 16 widely scattered rockets hit the city's suburbs Wednesday killing one person and injuring 15.

Meanwhile, Afghan Government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani strongly denied charges that agents of the Soviet-backed Kabul regime were behind the death by poisoning Monday of a prominent mujahidin leader in the country's southeast.

Members of the Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin group headed by Gulbuddin hikmatyar have charged that the Afghan government paid 200,000 Afghanis (some 500 U.S. dollars) for the assassination of Haji Latif, mujahidin commander in the Qandahar City region.

"The government would never try to kill such a strong and popular commander who favored a political settlement," Mr. Amani said of Haji Latif, who was opposed to both to the mujahidin tactic of rocketing cities and to the Hikmatyar group.

Mr. Amani said that Haji Latif, a known royalist, had a "constructive and realistic approach that was a great incentive to the government."

The poisoning of Haji Latif followed the killing of some 30 mujahidin guerrillas belonging to the Jamiat-e Eslami resistance group, allegedly by members of the Hikmatyar group in northern Afghanistan last month.

Kabul Radio Notes Attack

LD1008165389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The murderers and killers [yazidi] who are being supported by Pakistani state terrorism and Saudi Wahhabis, fired nine surface-to-surface missiles at busy and residential areas of Kabul City today.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that a missile fired by the criminals hit a crowded bus station and cruelly destroyed the life of a number of pure children, women, and breadwinners and caused a river of blood to flow at the bus station. Other missiles hit the homes of our compatriots and busy areas thus causing a number of our compatriots to mourn for the loss of their loved ones at the time of the anniversary of a major Muslim historic event—the martyrdom of Muhammad's grandson, peace be upon him—and made their houses look like the scene of the Battle of Karbala.

As a result of this action by the criminal killers, 9 of our compatriots were martyred and another 16 were injured. The injured were quickly taken to the hospital where they are under serious observation and treatment.

BAKHTAR's military section added that in 1 week the professional killers and murderers have fired 141 surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Kabul city, at bus stations and markets [words indistinct] as a result of which 29 of our compatriots including women and children, were martyred and 97 others were injured.

Further Report on Military Situation

LD1008195289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] A responsible armed forces source has informed BAKHTAR's military section that, as part of an operation to consolidate and expand areas seized from the enemy, another 10 new security posts were established yesterday in areas adjacent to Daruntah and 7 new posts were built near Sorkh Rud.

As a result of a mopping-up operation and search outside Jalalabad, 145 mortars, 8 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, 3 boxes of grenades, and 2 depots belonging to the criminal groups supported by Pakistan were seized and 4 of these criminals were arrested.

The source added that the joint enemy forces, who are in a panic as a result of recent defeats, used long-range weapons—assisted by artillery fire from Pakistan's XI Corps—to shell Jalalabad, security posts, and residential areas outside the city. As a result of this, three military personnel were martyred and three houses were destroyed. The courageous units and subunits of the country, who are courageously defending the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity against attacks by the joint enemy forces, have

crushed 5 murderers of our Muslim people and injured 39 of them with aerial and artillery blows. A number of Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis were among those killed.

One enemy BM-1 unit, one rocket launcher, two Dshk's, four mortars, nine rocket launchers [repetition as heard], and a motor vehicle carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

The source added that the murderers of our Muslim people yesterday fired heavy weapons at some areas of Khowst Major District, injuring seven members of the armed forces and various tribes. As a result of retaliatory action by the armed forces, 12 enemies were killed and another 16 of them were injured. One missile unit, three mortars, two rocket launchers, and one motor vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of heavy weapons fire in Laghman Province by the criminal groups protected by Pakistan, six of our compatriots were martyred and another nine were injured. As a result of retaliatory action by the units and subunits of the armed forces, 14 enemies were killed and 8 of them were injured. One of their missile units, 3 mortars, and 11 motor vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

Arab Mercenary 'Wahhabi Saboteurs' Arrested

LD1008173189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] 'Abdorrahman, Sabah, and 'Abd al-Hadi—three mercenary Arab Wahhabis who illegally entered the Republic of Afghanistan for the purpose of encouraging the armed criminal groups to continue and intensify the war and fratricide—were recently arrested in Herat Province by Ministry of State Security personnel.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that the mercenary Arab Wahhabis, accompanied by two mercenary Afghan Wahhabis, went to Herat Province in order to encourage the armed groups supported by Pakistan and directly participate in subversive activities against the Afghan people, such as by launching surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas and cities. They were arrested by the security forces while carrying out subversive terrorist actions.

This is not the first time that mercenary Arab Wahhabis have entered Afghan territory for the purpose of continuing and intensifying the war, such as by launching surface-to-surface missiles at cities and residential areas. However, during the past month we have witnessed the arrest of another two of these mercenaries in Nangarhar and also witnessed the death of dozens of them during confrontations with our brave armed forces in various corners of the country.

Details of the confessions made by these Wahhabi saboteurs will be broadcast by the mass media for the information of esteemed compatriots.

Defense Minister Tanay Visits Herat Troops

LD1008175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Greetings and best wishes of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the armed forces were delivered this morning, to Herat forces personnel by Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a report by the BIA military section, the defense minister met with personnel of Herat forces. Having delivered best wishes of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, he spoke about the current political-military situation in the country, and specified their duties and responsibilities in defending the country's independence and territorial integrity. Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay visited the security posts around Herat City and spoke to the personnel defending and protecting the country's independence, national heritage, peace and security. He praised and honored the true services and heroism of the personnel of these posts, and presented them with medals and decorations of the Republic of Afghanistan as well as promotion cards. The defense minister visited the living and eating facilities of the personnel and gave necessary instructions to the officials. According to another report, the defense minister visited [word indistinct] of Towraghondi, and spoke with those commanders of the border militias who defend and protect the country's borders with heroism and self-sacrifice, alongside the country's armed forces. During the visit a number of commanders of the border militias who had shown merit in their duties were praised by the defense minister.

Bangladesh

Ershad To Depart on 'Private' Visit to Iraq 14 Aug

BK1108092689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 11 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Baghdad Monday on a two-day private visit, the weekly HOLIDAY reported Friday.

It said the main purpose of the visit was to offer prayers at the shrine of one of the greatest saints of Islam, but he could also meet Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and discuss bilateral issues.

Mr. Ershad would be accompanied by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and former Minister Mawlana Abdul Mannan, who reportedly has close links with Iraq.

Moulana Mannan, who HOLIDAY said arranged the visit, was unceremoniously dropped from the Cabinet in 1988 by Mr. Ershad without any reason being given.

Officials at the president's secretariat were not immediately available for comment.

Awami League Leader's Home 'Attacked' 11 Aug

BK1108063089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 11 (AFP)—Police guards and unidentified gunmen exchanged several rounds of fire when the home of Bangladesh's leading opposition leader was attacked, police said Friday.

They said gunmen fled the scene late Thursday in a three-wheeled taxi after police guarding Sheikh Hasina Wajed's residence in Dhanmondi returned their fire. No injuries were reported.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of her assassinated father's Awami League, was at home during the event, party leader Tofael Ahmed said.

Police said the incident was being investigated, but party sources requesting anonymity said that the attack was "most possibly carried out by a group involved in the assassination of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

Sheikh Mujib was killed along with several members of his family in a 1975 coup led by young rebel army officers.

India

8 Policemen Killed by Landmine in Maharashtra

BK1108090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] In Maharashtra, eight State Reserve Police personnel, including a subinspector, were killed in Punamguda village of Chandrapur District last night. According to Nagpur police, the jeep carrying police personnel on patrol duty drove over a mine planted on the road by Naxalites [leftist extremist group].

Police Kill 3 Sikh 'Militants' in Punjab 10 Aug

BK1108102189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11 (AFP)—An attempt by Sikh militants to rescue two comrades from police custody in Punjab State ended in the death of both prisoners in a gunbattle, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Friday.

One of the men involved in the failed rescue was also killed in the exchange of fire late Thursday [10 August] at Chabba Kalan village, located in the district centre on the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, PTI said.

A police party was escorting the two prisoners to an area where they had hidden firearms when they came under attack from a group of Sikh gunmen, PTI said.

The two men were identified as members of the Khalistan Commando Force, one of the most active Sikh militant outfits campaigning violently for a separate homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in Punjab.

Violence linked to the Khalistan campaign has left more than 800 people dead in Punjab so far this year.

Delhi TV Notes Deaths of 'Hardcore Terrorists'

BK1008165389 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, two hardcore terrorists and nine other extremists have been killed in separate encounters since last night. The two hardcore terrorists are Sukhdev Singh, alias Sukha, and Avtar Singh. Sukha was killed in a fierce encounter in Amritsar District while Avtar Singh was gunned down in Gurdaspur District. Sukhdev Singh was wanted for at least 25 killings while Avtar Singh was involved in a large number of crimes.

Five other terrorists were killed in an encounter near village Mahmudpur in Taran Taran of Amritsar District this afternoon. The combing operations in the area were still continuing when reports last came in.

Lower House Passes Rural Local Bodies System Bill

BK1008132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Constitution 64th amendment bill seeking to confer more powers on panchayat raj bodies [rural local bodies system] was passed by the Lok Sabha today. The House adopted the bill with 343 voting in favor and 1 against. Earlier, the House rejected the amendments moved by the opposition.

Replying to the discussion on the bill in the House, Mr Bhajan Lal [agriculture minister] asserted that the center is not interested in acquiring the powers of the state governments, but it is duty bound to vest a portion of power to the panchayats. [passage omitted]

Constitution Amended

BK1008161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha today adopted by an overwhelming majority the Constitution's 64th and 65th amendment bills aimed for the first time at strengthening the panchayati raj [rural local bodies] institutions and the urban local bodies. Both the bills were moved by the prime minister.

The panchayati raj bill was adopted with 343 in favor and 1 against, while the nagarpalika bill received unanimous approval with 331 voting in favor and none against. Earlier, the house rejected the opposition amendments.

Described as a revolutionary and historic step, the two bills provide for direct elections under the supervision of the election commission and fixed tenure of 5 years to both panchayati raj institutions and the nagarpalikas. In the event of dissolution, fresh elections are mandatory for reconstituting them for the remaining period of the term. The state legislators are to ensure devolution of powers and responsibilities to these grass root level democratic institutions.

A salient feature of the Constitution amendment is the provision for setting finance commissions—one for panchayat raj bodies and another for urban local bodies—for determining the grants and aid and assignment of taxes by a state legislator. The comptroller and auditor general is empowered to audit the accounts of both the institutions.

Three-tier panchayati raj and nagarpalika institutions are sought to be set up more or less uniformly throughout the country with a district level committee for consolidating the development plans of a district as a whole.

Report Criticizes Delay in Tank Development

BK0808033789 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 89 p 10

[By Shubhabrata Bhattacharya]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 23—The Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG's) report on the Defence Services has brought to light some major chinks in the armour of India's defence preparedness. Officials rather than politicians are to blame, for the lapses are a result of years of mismanagement and efforts to hide facts.

The CAG's report, which runs into 84 paragraphs, has been in the centre of controversy due to paragraph number 11, dealing with the 155mm Bofors gun. There are however other portions of the report which also merit scrutiny.

The very first chapter, dealing with budgetary control, notes that during 1987-88, as against a total outlay of Rs [rupees] 13,293.52 crore, the expenditure on defence was Rs 12,378.75 crore. The Defence Ministry attributed the Rs 914.87 crore reduction in spending to "economy measures". The CAG, however, has noted that it was due to non-finalisation of contracts, non-receipt of supplies and slippages in deliveries and "not entirely due to economy measures" that less money was spent on defence.

The most glaring study has been made in Paragraph 43, in which it has been shown that despite spending Rs 118.22 crore and putting in 14 years of research and work, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has not been able to design and develop the Main Battle Tank (MBT), Arjun.

The MBT saga is interesting. Way back in May, 1974, at a total cost of Rs 15.50 crore, the project was sanctioned. The tanks were to be in service of the Indian Army by 1985 (replacing the older generation tanks). The project envisaged manufacture of four prototypes by April 1980 and another eight by 1982 and bulk production was to start at the Avadi tank factory in 1984.

The object for launching the MBT project was: (i) eliminate the dependence on foreign countries; (ii) placing India at par with super powers with regard to quality of tanks; and (iii) complete elimination of foreign exchange requirements in production of the tank on total indigenous design after development of the engine.

CAG has noted that the foreign exchange component, which was Rs 2.32 in the original estimates, now stands at Rs 102.32 crore and a complete redesign of the engine has been thought of after efforts to develop an indigenous one had repeatedly failed.

The project had envisaged 12 prototypes by 1982, but till August, 1988 eleven prototypes had been built with imported engines, CAG has noted.

It has also been commented that while monitoring of the project by three committees was envisaged, "meetings were not held regularly and monitoring was not comprehensive".

"Such a long and interminable delay in indigenisation can seriously affect the defence preparedness", CAG has said.

The Arjun prototype was paraded on Rajpath on the Republic Day in 1987. Earlier too, whenever criticism came, the DRDO sought to playdown the delay by making positive claims. The CAG report, therefore, has taken the lid off a pandora's box.

The MBT project had been discussed in the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on defence on June 26, 1982. "Satisfactory progress" was reported. However, a month later, the General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) for the MBT project was changed. (The original GSQR 326 of 1970 was changed to GSQR 431 of 1982). The new GSQR in effect meant that the original project had been scrapped. However, this was not admitted.

The MBT project made significant headway in some sectors. The gun and the armour was developed creditably. However, major systems like engine, transmission,

gun control, fire control and sighting systems are stated to be still under development. In effect, despite huge expenditure and years of effort, DRDO has failed to develop the MBT so far.

According to original plans, the MBT was to replace the Vijayanta in 1985 and serve the army till at least the year 2000. In the absence of the MBT, the army has improved the Vijayanta tanks in its workshops and also relied on the Russian T-72, which is also being made in India now.

Another area in which the CAG has expressed concern is the utilisation of equipments in the DRDO. "Fifteen laboratories held 33 equipments costing Rs 461.75 lakh without utilisation for periods varying upto nine years...24 equipments worth Rs 444.40 lakh were imported", CAG has said and commented, "such delays have the normal fallout of delay in the completion of projects." [passage omitted]

Iran

U.S. 'Weakness' Exposed in Espionage Operations

LD1008133789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Station commentary: "The Confession of U.S. Statesmen to the CIA's Defeat"]

[Text] When, in the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May 1989], officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] divulged that United States tasted one more defeat in its confrontation with Islamic Iran and suffered the burden of another disgrace. U.S. officials, who could not believe the news of the failure of their espionage activities in Iran, amid confusion tried to make up for this defeat by denying the issue. But today, 4 months after the exposure of the failure of the CIA's espionage operations in Iran, U.S. disgrace is more apparent than before and no one can deny U.S. espionage in Iran and its failure in this case.

In this connection, 2 nights ago, the U.S. state-controlled radio, quoting the daily THE NEW YORK TIMES in a report referring to constant U.S. endeavours to gather information on issues related to the ruling system in Iran, discussed the failure of these measures and the confusion among U.S. statesmen. This issue, in addition to confessing that espionage networks have operated in Iran, is a confession of failure in this case too.

The failure of the U.S. espionage organization in Iran is worthy of consideration for several reasons. The method used to uncover the CIA's espionage network and its proper exploitation demonstrates the capabilities of the Islamic Republic and Iran's Ministry of Intelligence. The extent of this capability, in view of the fact that Iran has managed to defeat the biggest espionage organization in the world—the CIA—becomes clearer. This is particularly true because after Iranian intelligence forces discovered this network, by controlling the agents of the U.S. espionage network and passing false information through them, they used this organization to serve their own interests for a long time. Which confused the United States. On the other hand, the discovery of the U.S. espionage network in Iran further exposed U.S. weakness and despondency in its confrontation with the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The United States, which after being defeated resorted to various means including economic sanctions, an attempted coup, and military attacks, tested the alternative of infiltration through espionage activites and observed its abortive outcome in Iran. This dimension of the issue shows that the United States, in its attempt to infiltrate the strong fortress of the Islamic revolution, has failed in every arena. The exposure of U.S. espionage operations in Iran and the confession of U.S. officials for the umpteenth time proves the U.S. violation of international principles.

Noninterference in the internal affairs of other states is an accepted principle of the international community and its violation by any government is considered to be a blatant offense. In addition, in view of articles in the Algerian accords, on the basis of which the U.S. Government has promised not to interfere in Iran's affairs, it becomes clear that the United States has no respect for international commitments and norms. And whenever its interests dictate, by ignoring these norms, it tries to safeguard its illegitimate interests. In this connection, despite all its propaganda about observing international regulations, it only exploits them to save itself when it is in a crisis. It is only in those circumstances that the United States demands the implementation of international rules and regulations. All this indicates that the U.S. Government is never in favor of balanced relations and is always in search of maintaining its domination in establishing links with other governments. For this reason, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, and in view of this attitude of the U.S. Government, the IRI has resisted Washington's requests to resume diplomatic relations.

Tehran TV Describes U.S. 'Espionage Network'

LD1008202989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1735 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Earlier this year Iran ended the partially successful activities of the CIA when it revealed the existence of an espionage network which compiled secret intelligence reports and documents on Iran's military projects. The state-controlled U.S. radio broadcast a report on this 2 nights ago, quoting the daily NEW YORK TIMES. Following a period of silence by U.S. officials, the daily wrote: Earlier this year Iran smashed an espionage network which supplied the CIA with intelligence reports and documents pertaining to Iran's military projects. The Islamic Republic of Iran announced in the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May] that it had discovered one of the largest CIA espionage networks in the Middle East.

During this period the U.S. Government, in its first hasty and hypocritical reaction, pleaded ignorance of a CIA espionage network in Iran, following which the Western news agencies, reporting some of the claims made by Iranian officials, attempted to connect it with Iran's internal developments and with what they allege to be a power struggle, hence minimizing the importance of the United States' defeat and the discovery of the U.S. espionage network in Iran.

Following the disclosure of the U.S. espionage network in Iran, the imperialist mass media alleged that a planned coup d'etat plan in Iran had been aborted. However, with the revelation of the CIA's military-intelligence espionage network and a series of interviews with and confessions by members of that network, as well as the display of various advanced espionage instruments and devices, the extent to which the propaganda waged by the Wesern media is in service of U.S. interests was soon made clear.

Members of the CIA espionage network in Iran confessed that for years they had engaged in exchanging various intelligence reports with the CIA espionage organization, and that they had received special training in this connection in a number of countries.

The CIA used a multitude of methods in order to entice the Iranians. In general, the U.S. spies were requested to cooperate and offered entry visas for the United States depending on their occupation, degree of influence within governmental organizations and sensitive headquarters, and their ability to compile secret intelligence reports.

These individuals were mobilized into four-man mission teams and were trained in various techniques such as the compilation of intelligence reports, the use of concealed equipment for receiving coded messages, coded documents, and hidden cameras to photograph sensitive spots and documents. The center from which the CIA's espionage activities in Iran were directed was on West German territory, connected to the United States through Europe.

Each espionage team pursued a specific mission—separately and without connection with the other teams—and was directly connected with the U.S. espionage organization in the Middle East. Thus, the discovery of the huge U.S. espionage network in Iran not only delivered a massive blow to the activities of that organization in the region, but also disclosed and identified a number of CIA agents in Europe, and even in the United States itself to the extent that another mobilization of CIA agents has been made impossible for a long time to come.

Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, having revealed the U.S. espionage network in Iran, announced: Some of these spies were collaborating with us. In other words, they would present the Americans' queries to us, to which we would give our desired response via the intelligence agents.

As a result of the alertness of the intelligence services of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the CIA was deceived by false intelligence reports for a long time. Three days ago, the daily NEW YORK TIMES, quoting State Department officials in Washington, wrote: Iran had been aware of the espionage network's existence for several months before its discovery was announced, and dispatched false intelligence reports through it.

After the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1362 [1983] and the killing of a number of the most important CIA officials who had assembled in order to participate in a regional conference, the discovery of the huge network of U.S. spies in Iran was the heaviest blow Washington has recieved from a nonaligned and revolutionary country. It will take years for the CIA to rebuild its espionage networks, remobilize them, and attract the necessary elements, particularly as, according to remarks made by U.S. officials, the acquisition of information in Iran and the hiring of Iranians are among the most difficult tasks faced by the U.S. espionage organization.

The U.S. officials' admission of espionage in Iran has again caused the nature of the government in Washington—a false advocate of human rights in the world—to be questioned, has revealed the true character of the United States in its unjust interference in Third World countries, and the many atrocities commited by the CIA.

From the beginning, the Islamic Republic of Iran has considered interference in the internal affairs of Iran to be a violation of the Algiers accord, and has said it will pursue the U.S. espionage issue in The Hague Court. It will make the utmost effort to realize the rights of the Islamic nation of Iran.

At the same time as praising the relentless efforts of our country's intelligence officials, it is appropriate to ask them to continue to confront the infiltrating and hegemonistic methods of the Western espionage networks, especially those of the United States.

Sources Say 'Insolent' U.S. Messages Rejected

LD1008165989 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Following the publication of "suspicious" reports on holding of talks between Iran and United States, informed sources told IRNA Thursday that no talks were being held between Tehran and Washington.

"What has happened," the same sources explained, "is just the dispatch of messages by the U.S. Government through certain third governments on the hostage issue and the Lebanese crisis."

These sources added, however that the Islamic Republic of Iran had rejected the messages because some of them had an "insolent tone."

Perez de Cuellar: 'No Success' in Hostage Crisis

LD1008194189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has announced that his special envoy to the Middle East achieved no success toward solving the hostage crisis.

UN Under Secretary Marrick Goulding, following his 1-week trip to the Middle East and his meetings with the religious and political leaders in Lebanon, Syria, as well as the Zionist regime's officials in [word indistinct] pertaining to U.S. Colonel William Higgins, returned yesterday to New York.

Perez de Cuellar said that having read the report submitted to him by Marrack Goulding he had reached the certain conclusion that Colonel Higgins is dead.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on 'Ubayd's Abduction

NC1008191589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Aug 89 p 10

[Editorial "Abduction—the Modus Operandi of the Israeli Government"]

[Excerpts] The crisis stemming from the Zionists' abductions has led to commencing a new phase of retaliatory actions against Israel and its mentors.

Carrying out a raid deep inside Lebanese territory in the south, the Israeli terrorists abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Friday imam of the town of Jibshit, and two of his companions, and transferred them to occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, an underground Lebanese group, which was apparently operating against Israel, gave Israel a 24-hour ultimatum stating that if the abducted people were not released, they would execute one American spy in retaliation.

Apparently, this ultimatum was not taken seriously by Israel and its mentors, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated that such threats have been repeatedly heard but never carried out.

However, some hours after the deadline, Western news agencies reported on the execution of an American spy in Lebanon, pointing out that a videotape containing convincing facts on the execution of Colonel Higgins was available. [passage omitted]

Unknown underground groups operate in Lebanon which, despite the activities of all the Western and Israeli intelligence networks during the past 6 years, continue to remain unidentified, as no one knows anything about them. All facts show that these underground groups should not be listed with the identified groups in Lebanon. The big mistake committed by the United States and Israel was they thought that with the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, they would be inflicting blows on the known groups in Lebanon, specifically on Hizballah, and that by so doing they would pressure them to release the Western hostages in Lebanon. They thought that they would be creating conditions under which, from now on, the elements of Lebanon's Hizballah would go from door to door trying to find the end of the yarn attached to underground groups in Lebanon, and thus pave the way for exchanging Western hostages with those who had been abducted by Israel inside Lebanon.

The execution of Higgins showed that Israel and the United States were wrong in their calculations and that despite having all that intelligence strength in Lebanon, they were unable to understand the difference between the known combatant groups and the unknown underground groups in Lebanon.

Lebanon's Hizballah owes its existence to the brave attacks against Israel. The great honor of this known group is that it has explicitly undertaken the responsibility for its brave attacks against occupying Israel.

The biggest mistake committed by Israel and the United States is that they do not want to recognize Hizballah as the "symbol of wrathful operations against occupation" and therefore portray this group as a terrorist group; it is precisely from this point that they have suffered the blow.

The biggest problem of Israel and the United States is that they do not want to recognize the pure sentiments of the Lebanese nation for crushing any type of aggression against their territory. Israel and the United States are also trying—with their savage and inhuman approaches—to stifle the oppressed cry of South Lebanon, and their anger stems from the fact that they have failed to do this.

Even though the contemporary world is not informed of all the facts and subtleties of the Lebanese problem, recent incidents can nevertheless make it feel precisely the main difference between "terrorism" and "brave acts against occupation." [Passage omitted]

Even though hostage-taking is not a suitable method, when the Lebanese people are not at rest even in their own homes and are abducted from inside them, then this is probably the only method that they can think of, and there may possibly be those who wish to retaliate against Israel and its mentors.

Why should Israel have the right to perpetrate crimes in Lebanon while no one in Lebanon has the right, in his own country, to confront the crimes perpetrated by Israel and its mentors? Those who sparked off the crimes now feel the smoke getting in their own eyes; this is why they are enraged.

When kidnapping becomes the modus operandi of the Israeli government, when votes are cast for carrying out an act of abduction deep within the territory of a country, when Israel and its mentors easily justify everything and ridicule all international laws and regulations, when there is nothing that cannot be justified and when anything goes, then naturally those who rise in confrontation also have justifications for their acts.

Ben Bella Reportedly Mediating Tehran-KDP Talks
LD1008151989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1203 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug 10 (KUNA)—Former Algerian leader, Ahmad Ben Bella was in the center of negotiations between the Iranian Government and the "Iranian Democratic Kurdish Party" [KDP], it was revealed here Thursday [10 August].

Under a column of confidential news, the "EVENEMENT DU JEUDI" weekly said Ben Bella was serving as an intermediary between Tehran and the Kurdish party of Ahmad Qasemlu to find grounds of conciliation between the two parties.

According to the magazine, the Paris-based Ben Bella gave up his good-offices mission following the assassination of Qasemlu and two of his aides in Vienna a month ago.

Ben Bella enjoys friendly relations with several political groups which he came to know during his exile in France.

PRC Foreign Minister To Visit 'Early' Oct
LD1008142989 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Wang Benzuo met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday and discussed the forthcoming visit to Tehran of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Velayati welcomed Qian's visit to take place early in October and announced Tehran's preparedness to expand ties with Beijing.

Commentary Assesses Relations With Soviet Union
NC0908190889 Tehran PASDAR-E ESLAM in Persian 23 Jul 89 pp 45-47, 49

[Commentary "On Iranian-Soviet Relations"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Since the victory of the revolution, diplomatic and other relations between Iran and the Soviet Union have been through several vicissitudes. Among the obstacles preventing the establishment and expansion of our relations with our northern neighbor during the past decade, we can refer to the Russians' occupation of Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Soviet Union's overt support for Iraq (in various aspects and especially in strengthening the Iraqi regime's defensive structure), and the Russians' disorderly diplomacy. On the other hand, the absence of a stable foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, as well as the problems stemming from the vestiges of the past regime, were among other factors that prevented the expansion of the two countries' relations.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, despite the activities of the revolution's leadership in breaking the American system of the shah, the Soviet Union attempted to expand and to strengthen pro-Soviet movements in Iran, so much so that the hand of the Soviet Union could be seen in some of the disturbances fomented by grouplets at the onset of the revolution. The Tudeh Party of Iran, which moved within the framework of Soviet policy, had infiltrated some of the higher echelons of the Army and was placing confidential information at the disposal of the KGB. The occupation of Islamic Afghanistan by the Russians also spoke of the continuation of the Soviet Union's hegemonistic policy, and this could have been considered a primary obstacle preventing expanded relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union. Also, during the Iraqi regime's aggression and the imposition of the war on Iran, the Soviet Union adopted a policy which not only did not make Iraq consider the Russians an obstacle to its aggression, but made it consider the Soviet Union one of its greatest mentors in the armament, economic, and even political fields.

Even though the assumption of power by Mikhail Gorbachev did not have immediate effects on Soviet policies on the Iran-Iraq war, nevertheless his statement on reforms promised that the Kremlin did not want to continue the "wrong paths" of Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev. [passage omitted]

The freedom of Muslims—to the extent of allowing them to use the minarets of their mosques to call for prayers and to propagate Islam—was an issue that turned the attention of world Muslims to the positive developments in that country. In the field of foreign policy, Gorbachev described the occupation of Afghanistan as a "bleeding wound" that should be healed as soon as possible, and so he declared the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. This too, was something which drew the attention of world Muslims and, naturally, the Islamic Republic of Iran—which considers support for Muslims and the oppressed of all the world its basic policy—also considered this a declaration of readiness by the Russians to establish and expand mutual relations.

It was after these developments that the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, sent a letter to Gorbachev on 1 January 1989. [passage omitted]

From the Russians' point of view, this letter from the Iranian leader was regarded as a turning point in the history of the two countries' relations, and it was because of their need for such relations that they welcomed it. Even though Gorbachev's letter of thanks to the imam did not contain any reply to the profound ideological

issues propounded in the imam's letter, it was considered a criterion to see whether or not, in view of the Soviet Union's efforts to remove the obstacles preventing joint relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian leadership would agree to establishing such relations. The mere fact that Gorbachev's special envoy was received by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, at a time when he had granted very few audiences to foreign guests in past months, was in itself a positive reply to the Russians. Thus the grounds for joint relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union were paved; actually, the Islamic Republic of Iran pursued a line in its relations with the Soviet Union in its foreign policy that had been delineated by the imam. [passage omitted]

After the heart-rending demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the propaganda of the western mass media started disseminating the fabrication that "Iran is prepared to rejoin the Western bloc"! But the announcement of the date of the Majlis speaker's visit to the Soviet Union made it difficult for them to be able to continue such allegations. [passage omitted]

The Russians' urgent need for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Islamic revolution in general in various fields was of great significance to them. The Russians have well understood that by confronting the Islamic revolution, which is considered the hearth of pure Mohammadan Islam, not only will nothing be achieved, but the very existence of the socialist system in the Soviet Union will be threatened because the ideological influence of the Islamic revolution on Soviet Muslims is not something that the Kremlin can ignore. Thus, in order to be able to manage its Muslim-inhabited republics, the Soviet Union had to have friendly relations with the point around which the Islamic revolution of the world pivots—that is, the Islamic Republic of Iran. It had to set enmities aside and not hurt the feelings of Muslim public opinion in the Soviet Union. These issues turned into basic domestic needs in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

The Russians' obvious need for Iran's cooperation in solving basic problems in the Middle East, especially the Afghanistan problem, and this at a time when the Geneva accords on Afghanistan were being trampled on by the Americans and Pakistan, was something to which all political observers pointed. In order to gain the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving the Afghanistan problem, the Russians descended from their former positions and accepted the presence of Muslims and preferably the eight-party alliance (which is supported by Iran) in the cabinet and the removal of the identified murders of the Afghan Muslims from the government. The Russians also portrayed this need in their propaganda by saying that the improvement of relations between Iran and the Soviet Union is of special significance for peace in Asia. [passage omitted]

The significance attached by the Russians to the Majlis speaker's visit was manifested in the fact that Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership extended him a welcome fit for the head of a great country. [passage omitted]

At the end of this official visit, the outcome of the talks held by the Iranian delegation bespoke the expansion of relations between the two countries in all fields. They also defined the conditions of equality in these relations. [passage omitted]

In a general assessment, the positive outcome of this visit in all fields will continue for the Islamic Republic of Iran and should be pursued alertly as a movement toward the Islamic Republic of Iran's new strategy and as an important juncture in the field of foreign policy. This is how the country's leadership and officials have described this visit. Undoubtedly in this course, some domestic currents and the Western mass media which support the reestablishment of the West's influence and the return of the oppressive relations between the United States and Iran will try to equate the current Soviet Union with the current United States and claim that since relations with the Soviet Union are not contrary to the policy of "neither East," in the same way relations with the United States will not be contrary to the policy of "neither West"! They will try to impress upon others that "therefore there is nothing wrong with relations with the United States"! [passage omitted] Our current relations with the Soviet Union are reciprocal and far from that country's dominating our fate. If the officials and the people feel the least bit of harm being done to our independence and our holy principle of neither East nor West, then they will sever these relations. However, this nation has learned from its great teacher Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, that we should not encourage the West, primarily the United States. It has also learned that we should never accept relations with the United States because the establishment of such relations between man and the great Satan will be like relations between sheep and the wolf, for this situation will exist as long as the culture currently ruling the Western world exists.

Majlis Announces Open Session on 15 Aug

LD1008174189 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Before you hear weather report I inform you of the statement by the Islamic Consultative Assembly Public Relations Office which announced that the assembly will hold an open session on Tuesday, 24 Mordad [15 August] at 0730.

Musavi Thanks Staff Members for Service

LD1008122289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] In a ceremony today Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, offered his appreciation for the sincere services of deputies to the prime minister as well as directors general and advisers of the Prime Ministry during the past 8 years.

Referring to the valuable experiences of the executive cadres during the past years, he expressed the hope that such experiences would remain at the service of the Presidency, serving as an efficient arm for the executive branch.

Mr Musavi added that throughout the past years the office of the prime minister has been the focus of much attention and the crossing point for the country's executive affairs. It has now emerged as a seasoned outfit after shouldering heavy responsibilities. It has left behind great events. During the past 8 years it has accomplished the greatest volume of work under changing fortunes of the Islamic revolution, specifically the imposed war.

Addressing the management cadre of the Prime Ministry, Mr Musavi said the performance of managerial cadres at the Prime Ministry was always scrutinized by the exalted leadership, the people's representatives at the Majlis, political groups, and the mass of the people. You have had a tremendous share in the achievements of the executive power.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Council of Ministers recommended to the executive cadre of the Prime Ministry to be ready for cooperation with the new package of the country's executive regime and in so doing to make use of their valuable past experiences and to have sincere motivation.

According to the same report, Mr Mirzadeh, executive deputy prime minister, referred to the sincere services of Mr Musavi during the past 8 years and wished success for him.

At the end of the ceremony Mr Musavi handed over letters of appreciation to the prime minister's deputies as well as to the directors general and advisers of the Prime Ministry in recognition of their efforts during the past 8 years.

Editorial Examines Post-Election Expectations

NC0908210089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Jul 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Logical Expectations"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The way the elections and the referendum were held and the way the people were widely present showed that "Iran after the Imam" continues to tread his path, that the people continue to show the same zeal and enthusiasm, and that they continue their alert interest in their fate. [passage omitted]

At this point, we should discuss the expectations of the people and of the various strata of society. These expectations can be divided into two completely distinctive groups:

1. Logical and rational expectations, and

2. Illogical and irrational expectations.

If until now the concentration of power and responsibility has not been such to grant one person the necessary responsibilities, now—by taking into consideration the decisions adopted by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution and the high percentage of votes cast by the people in favor of the amendments to the Constitution—the president and his cabinet will be granted the necessary legal authority, and they can meet the people's demands. The people's logical expectation is that from now on they witness spectacular developments and that society will witness and feel serious changes taking place in the fight against corruption, high prices, hoarding, and many other such issues, and that they will see solutions to such problems.

The people have shown that they are prepared to cooperate and to follow up on problems. They have shown that they are a powerful tool for implementing projects. The people thirst for reforms, and if the officials enter the scene seriously and use their legal authority, then certainly they will be able to use this immense support by the people and achieve progress.

These are the logical and rational expectations for the fulfillment of which the people are prepared to wait and to keep their promise that they will be a strong backbone for the officials. But in the midst of this there are illogical and irrational expectations,too, and remarks are sometimes heard on miraculous effects from changes. Such positions or guesses can have detrimental effects, and the flames of such ideas can be fanned by ill-intentioned people.

It will be a mistake if there are those who hope that immediately after taking the power in its hands, the new government will also be able to solve all the problems immediately. This is an incorrect presumption which can only lead to a useless increase in expectations.

It is clear that basic issues in executive affairs need time and that the amendments to the Constitution can only create the necessary grounds for granting the authority to the executive system to deal with problems. But at any rate, time is needed for these amendments to mellow.

We should also not forget one possibility. It is possible that some individuals who are trying to create illogical expectations among the people and to allege that with the coming to power of the new government everything will be solved are from the same fabric as those disturbed elements who have always tried to question and to undermine the efforts of the serving government and all the officials of the country's executive system over the past 8 years.

It is possible that there may be those who, on the pretext of preparing the people for future reforms, question the tireless efforts of the executive officials at the most sensitive junctures of our country's history and ignore all

those efforts. But the people are alert and grateful for all those sacrifices and efforts by each and every one of the hard-working executive officials.

The people will never forget the efforts of a government that stood next to the people on the scene in extremely difficult moments. [passage omitted]

The Iranian nation has now put those conditions behind it and is preparing to enter a new situation and to attempt a serious and effective change in its Constitution.

Naturally, in this phase the unity of the people and the officials will also be manifested in a spectacular way, and it will be with this popular support that the future president and his cabinet can direct the executive system of the country through the ups and downs of incidents and lead the nation toward development and grandeur. What is very significant in this stage is that the element of time needed for taking the necessary steps toward solving problems and toward implementing activities needed for reconstruction and society's development and progress be taken into consideration. It is only in this case that one can describe the expectations as logical and be confident that everything will be done in good time. God willing.

Esfahan Refinery Chief on Production

LD1008202689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] More than 50 percent of the country's liquid gas is produced at the Esfahan refinery. The head of Esfahan's refinery announced this in an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent. He said that the production process of this refinery, from the beginning of its operation in 1979, has been rising very satisfactorily.

He said: This refinery has 20 different oil products. The most important are liquid gas, petrol, light and heavy fuels, and kerosene. In this regard, the production of the liquid gas has gone from 1,090 cubic meters in 1979 to 2,370 cubic meters. Petrol has gone from 4,065 cubic meters to 7,135 cubic meters. He added: The productions of the Esfahan refinery in 1988 reached 330,000 barrels which is 51.5 percent higher than assured capacity.

The head of the Esfahan refinery, continuing the comparison between the products from 1988 and the previous year, said: Despite air attacks on the refinery, the production of liquid gas in the year 1988 rose 19.6 percent, petrol by 17.7 percent, kerosene and gas oil by 15.3 percent, kiln fuel by 13.1 percent, and tar by 23.4 percent, compared to 1978. [passage omitted]

Nepal

'Wish' for Negotiations With India Reiterated

BK1008134789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 10 (AFP)—Nepal has reiterated its wish to conduct immediate negotiations with India aimed at resolving the nearly five-month stalemate on trade and transit that has crippled the mountain kingdom's economy.

The government's chief spokesman, Radhe Shyam Bista, told reporters Thursday that "Nepal is willing to discuss all the issues of bilateral concern encompassing the whole range of Nepal-India relationship."

"Nepal believes that the proposals made by both sides regarding the agenda provide an adequate ground to start a meaningful dialogue," the spokesman said, adding that it was Kathmandu's "earnest hope that India will respond positively to our letter of June 26, 1989" urging a resolution of conflict.

The dispute followed the expiry of trade and transit agreements between the two nations on March 23. Disagreement on whether trade and transit should be negotiated singly or jointly has blocked further talks.

The dispute has seen India close nearly all the surface routes through its territory into the landlocked Himalayan nation, severely disrupting commerce, causing acute shortages of basic commodities and fuel, and worsening Nepal's trade deficit.

The situation has been compounded by sporadic labor unrest in India that has disrupted the transit of goods, especially from the port of Calcutta.

Meanwhile, news reports here that at least two jetties at the Calcutta Port have been opened since Monday brought a sense of relief to the Nepalese, who were hoping for a normal importation of petroleum products by next week.

Foreign Minister Talks With Maldives Counterpart

BK1008141489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 10 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel of the Maldives and Nepal's Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya held talks here Thursday [10 August] on issues of mutual interest, a Nepalese Foreign Ministry source said.

The two men discussed the current political situation in South Asia, including Sri Lanka, and the meeting of the foreign ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), tentatively set for some time this month.

The original SAARC foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad was postponed during Sri Lanka's dispute with New Delhi over the presence of India troops on its territory.

The source said the two ministers also spoke about the Nonaligned Movement's summit meeting in Belgrade early next month.

Mr. Jameel explained his country's planned U.N. resolution seeking the world body's protection of the sovereignty of smaller nations faced with large military powers.

Sources close to the Maldivian delegation said President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was scheduled to submit the resolution at the U.N. General Assembly in September.

Mr. Jameel later met with Nepal's Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and went to the Naryanhity Palace for an audience with King Birendra.

Mr. Jameel then left for New Delhi on his way to Dhaka, continuing his goodwill visits to the SAARC member states.

SAARC includes India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Pakistan

Federal Cabinet Meets in Peshawar; Bhutto Presides

Nuclear Pact With India Ratified

BK1008115189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Federal Cabinet at its meeting in Peshawar today discussed law and order, internal situation in the country, relations between the federal government and the provinces, and took a number of decisions. The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Briefing the newsmen, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Javed Jabbar, said that the Federal Cabinet ratified the agreement of nonattack on each other's nuclear installations between Pakistan and India. The agreement was signed on secretarial level on the 31st December last year. It also ratified the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Brazil.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated a newly-constructed block at the Frontier House in Peshawar today. It has been completed at a cost of over 9 million rupees. It consists of a big hall with a modern sound system, a committee room and 15 other rooms.

Meeting Decisions Viewed

BK1008155789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet met in Peshawar today to review law and order, the internal situation of the country, and relations between the federal government and the provinces. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presided.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Javad Jabbar, minister of state for information and broadcasting, said that the Cabinet reaffirmed the commitment to protect at all costs the Constitution and citizens' rights. He said that no one will be allowed to take the law in his own hands. North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] Chief Minister Aftab Ahmad Sherpao presented a detailed report on the political and law and order situation in the province. The Cabinet paid particular attention to the fact that the chief minister of another province is trying to weaken and destabilize the NWFP government. The meeting said that this act is unconstitutional and illegal.

The Cabinet also spent considerable time studying the violation of the official secrets act by several newspapers and journalists. The meeting decided to take stern actions against any further violations of the act.

It was clarified at the meeting that no discrimination will be meted out to any private organization. No step will be taken which is contrary to the wishes of the people.

The meeting also assessed the flood situation in the country, particularly in Punjab. The Cabinet was informed that 2,153 villages have been affected by floods in Punjab; standing crops on more than 295,000 acres of land have been destroyed; and 6,925 houses have been damaged due to floods. The meeting decided that the House Building Finance Corporation should provide loans to affected people on a priority basis.

The Federal Cabinet decided that no department will be allowed to increase expenditures because the prime minister has declared the current year an austerity year.

The Cabinet also reviewed the progress of the People's Program in all four provinces. So far, 1,100 plans have been approved and work on these plans are progressing at various stages. The prime minister directed that the pace of work on these programs be accelerated so that people are provided with drinking water and educational, health, and communication facilities.

The Cabinet expressed sorrow over the recent bomb blasts in Peshawar and Rawalpindi and directed the Interior Ministry to take all possible steps to protect human lives. [passage omitted]

AFP Details Meeting

BK1108005289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1941 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Thursday decided to strictly enforce the Official Secrets Act as the head of the Army ruled out any military intervention in Pakistan's deteriorating political climate.

"In the future freedom of expression would be allowed provided this right is utilised within the limits prescribed by law," minister of state for information, Javed Jabbar told newsmen after a cabinet meeting in Peshawar chaired by Ms. Bhutto focussing on law and order and the political situation.

"Any version of the cabinet meetings other than the one given out by the government in the official briefing would be seen in the light of Official Secrets Act," he said advising newspapers "not to publish unofficial versions" of such meetings. The government would take "strict view of any violation of the Official Secrets Act," he said.

Local newspapers recently carried stories speculating on snap polls, Ms. Bhutto's resignation, and intervention by the president or the Army in the wake of worsening relations between the government and opposition-led provincial governments in affluent Punjab and underdeveloped Baluchistan States.

The widespread rumours and deteriorating political situation coincided with the forthcoming first anniversary of the death of President Mohammed Ziaul Haq killed in a mysterious plane crash on August 17.

The cabinet decision coincided with a statement by Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg Thursday dismissing the possibility of a coup d'etat or the imposition of martial law in the country, which has a long history of military rule.

"The role of the armed forces was to provide an umbrella of external and internal security under which the political system could run its course" for the realization of national goals, he said in an address to senior military officers in nearby Rawalpindi.

"If any force dared detract it from its chosen course—no matter what that force might be, internal or external, political or otherwise—it would fail. It would perish even if it was an organized and disciplined body like the armed forces," he said.

Mr. Jabbar said the arrest Sunday of the editor of a local evening paper "had nothing to do with journalism," but was connected to the country's security.

Stressing that "steps would be taken to ensure security of the state," he said at least two other newspapers had recently published secret official documents. "We will not tolerate that in future," he warned.

Zahid Malik, the editor of Islamabad's only evening paper, the PAKISTAN OBSERVER, was arrested for writing a book on Pakistan's nuclear programme which a spokesman for the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said "contained material prejudicial to the country's interest." Over 650 copies of the book, published two months ago, were seized from the publisher while bookshops withdrew their copies although it was not officially banned.

The management of the newspaper, considered close to the opposition, claimed the action was taken to curb the newspapers "independent" policy and "objective" coverage of national events.

Talking to newsmen later Ms. Bhutto accused her opponents of launching a "venomous character assasination and propaganda campaign" and said her government would not allow anyone to disrupt national unity.

In a direct reference to General Ziaul Haq's son, Ijazul Haq, who is trying to enter politics, she said the Army house, the official residence of the late president's family, which had been given to them on "humanitarian grounds" was being converted into a "political arena."

Bhutto Vows To Protect Interests

BK1108033489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that the government will safeguard the national unity and nobody will be allowed to disrupt it. Talking to media representatives after the federal cabinet meeting in Peshawar yesterday, she said her party will never compromise on principles and will adhere to the rule of law and supremacy of democracy and the Constitution. The prime minister said that the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] is the custodian of integrity, solidarity, and progress of the country.

Referring to the venemous propaganda launched by the Islamic Democratic Alliance, the prime minister said these people themselves have been exposed to the people. They have nothing to offer except character assassination and venemous propaganda and they are not concerned about the national interests. She said traditionally the opposition attitude should be one of giving top priority to national interests despite differences, but the Islamic Democratic Alliance has forgotten all such principles.

The prime minister categorically stated that she will never let the national interests be compromised.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said her government believes in politics of sanity, political freedom, and protection of the rights of people. This government will tolerate criticism of her party's policies and herself, but will not allow damage to the national interests because these do not pertain to any individual or a political party.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the president has his own constitutional role to play and the prime minister's role is also defined in the Constitution. Both the president and the prime minister are playing

their constitutional role without friction, she added. Similarly, the Constitution also defines the role of the provincial governors and the chief ministers and when they have to work in the country under a Constitution, then what is the issue, she asked.

Referring to the differences between the center and Punjab, the prime minister said the issue is not between the center and the province but between the Pakistan People's Party and the Islamic Democratic Alliance. She said despite the negative attitude of the Punjab chief minister she wants to define a system to resolve the current crisis and find a lasting solution to the problem. The prime minister expressed concern at non-acceptance of the federal government's instructions on part of the Punjab chief minister. But she added that we believe in dialogue and want to continue it.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said all opposition propaganda has been tolerated with patience and this attitude of the PPP government will continue. She said if the interests of the federation were jeopardized, she will act according to the Constitution, conscience, and the wishes of the people as she is accountable to all these institutions.

The prime minister paid tribute to the elected representatives of the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] and said they could not be lured with the glitter of gold, which they have been offered. She said the people of the Northwest Frontier Province have always supported the PPP for the defense and progress of the country and welfare of the people and expressed the hope that this support will continue. The prime minister referred to the report presented to the Cabinet by NWFP Chief Minister Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and expressed concern at attempts to remove the legitimate government in the province through undemocratic means. She said interference by one province in the affairs of another province is a flagrant violation of provincial autonomy.

About fresh waves of bomb blasts, the prime minister said ever since the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, there has been a situation of civil war and as long as this war continues, we will have to be very courageous and brave. She said we are trying for an amicable political settlement of the Afghan issue.

Yaqub Khan Meets Mujahidin Government Leaders

BK1008160489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had a meeting with Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the Afghan interim government, in Peshawar. He also met Prime Minister 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf and other members of the interim government cabinet. The latest situation in Afghanistan was discussed during the meeting. The foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for a political solution of the Afghanistan issue which should be based on the right to self-determination of the Afghan people.

Protest Lodged on Firing of Scud Missile 3 Aug

BK1108022889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Pakistan has protested to Afghanistan on the firing of a Scud missile on its territory near Haripur. The missile injured six persons and damaged 18 houses.

The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was told that all responsibility for the serious consequences of such an attack would rest with the Kabul administration.

A complaint has also been launched with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan about the incident and it has been asked to investigate it.

PRC's Li Peng To Visit Pakistan in Nov

BK1008162689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng, will visit Pakistan in November this year. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Tian Ding, told newsmen in Islamabad tonight that the Chinese premier will personally thank the government and the people of Pakistan for appreciating the role of the Chinese Government and the people during the happenings in Beijing in early June.

The Chinese ambassador said despite criticism in Western countries about the happenings in China, Beijing would continue to pursue its policy of friendship with all countries and would continue to adhere to the fundamentals of its foreign policy based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The ambassador said the speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan and the ministers of commerce and law have been invited to visit China.

Official Notes PRC Concern Over Indian Missile

BK1008100189 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, July 25—The Senate Chairman, Mr Wasim Sajjad, has presented to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan the report of his recent visit to China which notes an increased concern of the Chinese authorities over the launching of Indian Agni missile, it was reliably learnt here on Tuesday [25 July].

In his detailed report, Chairman Wasim Sajjad has covered the discussions that his high-powered 10 member delegation had with Chinese leaders who reportedly informed their guests also about the recently held Sino-Soviet summit and the talks the Chinese leaders had with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The Senate Chairman is believed to have been told by the Chinese authorities that China felt equally concerned over the launching of Indian Agni missile and had recorded their concern in the meeting with the Indian Premier.

The delegation was stated to have been apprised by the Chinese authorities about latter's relations with the Soviet Union and India. They said China would surely like to improve its relations with Moscow and New Delhi, but at the same time wanted them to end their interference in Kampuchea and Tibet respectively.

According to sources the report of the Senate Chairman also contains certain suggestions formulated in the light of the discussion that the delegation had held with Chinese leaders especially on regional issues.

The report presented to the President reportedly suggests that China had received unparalled support and cooperation from Pakistan when faced with a mini-insurgency about two months ago. Chinese authorities are believed to have highly appreciated the visit of Senate delegation to Beijing at a time when it was confronted with its internal crisis and was wrongly accused by the West of committing recesses on its yosuth, especially the student community.

The Chinese leaders are said to have told the delegation that the number of killings during the disturbances was highly inflated in reports that appeared in Western Press.

Chinese leaders are said to have offered the Pakistan delegation to expand military and economic cooperation between the two countries. Offer has reportedly been made to further enhance Chinese participation in the bigger industrial projects of Pakistan and expansion of those industries which were established with the active financial and technical support of China.

Speaker of British House of Commons Meets Bhutto

BK1108082489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] The speaker of the British House of Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherhill, called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad this morning. Views were exchanged on the functioning of the parliaments in the two countries.

General Speaks on Role of Army in Country

BK1008165889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said the Army must meet internal and external challenges facing the country with firm conviction and tenacity. He was addressing senior officers at the end of [word indistinct] war games in Rawalpindi today. He said national institutions like the armed forces had to play their assigned role of maintaining an environment of security in which the political system chosen by the people could function unhindered.